

*Hafa Adai!*

# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

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## INSIDE



### New Tornadoes

Tornadoes touched down in northern Colorado and southern Wyoming, damaging buildings and killing at least one person.

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### US Airstrike

A U.S. helicopter strike north of Baghdad killed eight people in a vehicle, including at least two children.

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### New Passports

The Philippine Consulate General is informing all Filipinos in the CNMI that it will be accepting and processing applications for the new Machine Readable Passports soon.

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50 percent drop for Okinawa Memorial tour. **PAGE 3**

# MCS rules AG's Cup anew



## Venus wins speech competition

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
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REPORTER

**F**or the seventh straight year, Mount Carmel School won the Attorney General's speech competition that was held yesterday at the Hibiscus Hall, Fiesta Resort & Spa.

Mount Carmel senior Ruby Ann Reyes Venus, 17, bested eight other contestants during the 25th annual competition. Not only did Venus win the AG's Cup but she is also the first female to have won in seven years.

This year's competition theme was  
**See MCS on Page 4**

## Yumul enters delegate race

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
[agnes\\_donato@saipantribune.com](mailto:agnes_donato@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Rep. Ray N. Yumul has entered the race to become the first Northern Marianas delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Yumul said he will seek the endorsement of the NMI Republican Party. Yumul is likely to face Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio in the GOP primary tentatively scheduled for July 12, 2008.



Yumul

Yumul is serving his second term as lawmaker. He is currently the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

He vowed to bring new money to the Northern Marianas if elected to the new federal position, which of-

**See YUMUL on Page 4**



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

25th annual Attorney General's Cup speech competition winner Ruby Ann Reyes Venus, 17, a senior student of Mt. Carmel High School, poses with his coach and principal Galvin Deleon Guerrero beside the prestigious Attorney General's Cup yesterday at the Hibiscus Hall, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Other picture shows the 25th annual Attorney General's Cup speech competition participants posing with judges, Governor of Guam Felix P. Camacho, Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, CNMI Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory, Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, and Associate Justice Alexandro Cruz Castro shortly after the awarding ceremony.



## Local

## House junks 'rumor'-fed resolution

By AGNES E. DONATO  
agnes\_donato@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The House of Representatives has junked a resolution asking the Department of Finance not to garnish tax rebates that are part of the President's economic stimulus package.

The House members voted 7-7 to reject the resolution introduced by Representatives Ray N. Yumul and David Apatang.

Proponents of the resolution said the document was "a preventive measure" intended to discourage the Finance Department from withholding rebates for those who owe taxes to the government.

"It's happened in the past," said Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, who backed the resolution. "You never know [if it will happen again]. The authors' intent is simply to ensure that the stimulus money gets to the taxpayers."

But House Minority Leader Oscar M. Babauta said the resolution was based on hearsay. The Finance Department has not indicated any plan to garnish the tax rebates, which are expected to be released next week.

Rep. Tina Sablan agreed, saying, "I worry that this resolution



Palacios



Babauta

is rumor mongering on our part. I haven't seen any report that there will be garnishment of the rebate checks. And as an official expression of the House, a resolution must be based on accurate information."

For his part, Rep. Stanley T. Torres noted that it was not clear whether the Finance secretary has authority to garnish the federal tax rebates. He added that there may be some rebate recipients who actually owe the government. "I'd rather leave the decision to secretary of Finance," he said.

Press secretary Charles P.

Reyes Jr. has said the Finance Department has no intention to withhold any amount of the tax rebates. "That is an issue in Guam, but not here. I'm not sure we have the authority to do that even if we wanted to," he said.

Under the Economic Stimulus Act, U.S. taxpayers would get checks of several hundred dollars from the federal government to stimulate the economy. The CNMI government received approximately \$16 million pursuant to the law. The Finance Department is preparing to disburse the money to taxpayers in the Commonwealth.

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# 50 percent drop in Okinawa Memorial tour

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ  
Jackie\_delaacruz89@yahoo.com  
JUNIOR REPORTER

Only 100 people from Okinawa will be visiting Saipan for the 39th Annual Peace Memorial Tour this May 26.

"Last year, there was more than 200 tourist that visited Saipan for the Memorial tour; it really has been decreasing. During the 1980s, usually around 600 tourist would visit the CNMI, then on the 1990s it would be around 300 tourists," said Gordon Marciano, assistant

general manager of Pacific Development Inc.

For the past 19 years, the Micronesian Repatriation Association has been coming to the CNMI to pray for those who passed away during World War II and to extend the same prayers for those who are still fighting wars in other countries.

The association has also been bringing students from Rota, Tinian and Saipan for a cultural exchange tour of Okinawa. This is not going to happen this year, though, due to financial difficul-

ties.

The 39th Annual Peace Memorial event will be held on May 26, 10am at the Okinawa Peace Tower, next to the Last Command post in Marpi.

The next day at 11am, the 31st Tinian Okinawa Peace Memorial Services will be held at the Okinawa Peace Tower, Banzai Cliff on Tinian.

The public is invited to join both ceremonies.

Marciano said the group's number has been going down through the years as some have

already passed on. The members are looking forward to meeting each other again since for some it may be their last trip, he said.

This year, the MRA has received word that "they are unable to come up with the funds to help with the 20th CNMI/Okinawa student exchange."

"I believe if we all put our hearts together we can make the

20th student cultural exchange possible for them," said Marciano. "I hope that we can send three students from each of the district. Even a small help of sending one student to Okinawa would mean a lot for them."

"We hope and pray, that the future generation of Okinawans will continue to foster the good relationship which their forefa-

thers have accomplished and always return to the Micronesia to revisit where their parents were born and raised. It is very important to keep the ties strong, as they are also a part of our history and culture," he added.

For more information, contact Hiroko Tajima at 287-8780, or Marciano at 287-1195 or 322 8761.

## FBI issues alert vs e-mail, mail schemes

The Saipan office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has received reports from dozens of citizens regarding suspicious mail and e-mail solicitations.

Stopping these solicitations is difficult from a law enforcement perspective due to the fact that the perpetrators are usually operating in foreign countries outside the jurisdiction of U. S. law enforcement agencies. The best way to combat this epidemic is to educate the public on how to recognize these fraudulent solicitations and encourage people to avoid them.

Toward this end, the FBI wishes to advise citizens of the following information.

Tips to avoid international mass marketing fraud:

- If you receive a letter, email or telephone solicitation from another country asking you to send personal background information, do not reply in any manner.

- If you know someone who is corresponding in one of these schemes, encourage that person to contact the FBI.

- Be skeptical of the individuals representing them-

selves as a Nigerian, other foreign government officials, or claiming to be the FBI, U.S. Customs or the Internal Revenue Service asking you for your help in placing large sums of money in overseas bank accounts, asking for your bank account information, or asking for advanced fees so that you can collect any funds or alleged winnings.

- Do not believe the promise of large sums of money of your cooperation.

- Guard your account information clearly. (FBI)

## 14th Coast Guard District gets new chief

**HONOLULU**—In a ceremony held Thursday at Sand Island in Honolulu, Rear Adm. Sally Brice-O'Hara was relieved as the commander of the Fourteenth Coast Guard District.

Brice-O'Hara is being promoted to a position in Washington, D.C.

Taking the helm of the Fourteenth District, which includes Coast Guard units in Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Saipan, Tokyo, South Korea and Singapore, is Rear Adm. Manson Brown. He returns to

Hawaii after spending the past two years as the commander of the U.S. Coast Guard's Maintenance and Logistics Command Pacific in Alameda, Calif.

Brown was the commanding officer of Sector Honolulu and the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port, Honolulu, from 2005 to 2006.

Brice-O'Hara was commander of the Fourteenth District for two years and will next serve as the Coast Guard's Assistant Commandant for Operations, a three-star admiral's position.

The change-of-command ceremony is a time-honored military event preserved by the rich heritage of naval tradition. It is a formal custom that is designed to strengthen the respect of authority, which is vital to any military organization. The climax of the ceremony is reached when both officers read their orders, face one another, salute and transfer responsibility of the command. (USCG)



**AGING CONFERENCE**

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CNMI's man'amko participate in a physical exercise activity facilitated by physical therapist Pam Carhill during the Conference on Aging, which culminates the monthlong celebration of Mes Man'amko or the Older Americans Month at the Raraina dining room of Aqua Resort Club Saipan Friday.

## MISSING

**Black bag containing documents and charger lost at lobby of Aqua Resort Club on May 23rd during the Manamko Conference.**

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## Shell hosts auto show on Memorial Day weekend

Shell Marianas gives you one more good reason to celebrate this Memorial Day weekend as it launches the first Shell Form and Function Auto Show at the American Memorial Park on May 25.

Jeff Boyer, Shell Marianas retail area manager, said 25 participants will be vying for exciting cash prizes at the car show.

He said there are nine categories—2-door import; 4-door import, domestic, mini truck, 4X4, classic (over 25 years), café bike, roadster bike and best of show. The event is scheduled to start at 4pm.

First prize for each category is \$500; second prize is \$250; and third, \$100, Boyer said.

"We hope the community shows up for this great event," Boyer said. "It's an add-on to their Memorial Day weekend celebration."

What really makes the event

exciting is that it's guaranteed to bring out car enthusiasts and motorheads across the island to put their cars on display, compete and, at the same time, have a chance to bring home cash prizes.

Highlighting the event are Guam's Biggah & Bettah, four fashion models also from Guam; and two award-winning exhibition cars likewise from Guam, Boyer said.

Explaining why organizers named the event as such, Boyer said: "Form represents the aesthetic nature of the car; function, the performance. So whether you're strictly into 'form' or only have a performance machine, this show is for you because it caters to all."

Head on to the American Memorial Park on Sunday and enjoy the first ever Shell Form and Function Auto Show. (PR)

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# Senate confirms Janet King as NMC regent

By AGNES E. DONATO  
agnes\_donato@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Senate voted unanimously yesterday to confirm the appointment of Janet King to the Northern Marianas College board of regents.

King, who is also serving as an assistant public defender, will fill the unexpired term of former regent Joey P. San Nicolas, who had resigned from the board for personal reasons.

Her term will expire on Sept. 23, 2010.

The Upper House confirmed her nomination at the recommendation of the Senate Standing Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations. The committee



King

said King "has demonstrated the capability of representing objectively the community's aspirations in issues of postsecondary education."

"[The] committee has examined Ms. Janet H. King's education, credentials, community involvement, and the committee is convinced that Ms. King has great interest in serving for and contributing to the success of the Northern Marianas College," the committee added.

King, who recently came back to the commonwealth after graduating from law school, has also been appointed to the board of the NMI Council for the Humanities, a non-profit institution promoting history, culture, art,

and literature.

"I commend Janet for her willingness to serve our community," Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said when he announced her nomination to the NMC board. "She has a keen sense of social responsibility."

A former Miss CNMI Universe, King was born and raised on Tinian. Her father is originally from Rota and her mother is from Korea.

She completed her bachelor's degree at Wellesley College. She pursued her law degree at University of Nebraska College of Law, graduating in 2006. She has passed the bar examinations in Hawaii, Guam, and the Northern Marianas.

## Woman guilty of conspiracy to commit marriage fraud

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The jury found yesterday a woman guilty of conspiring with other persons to commit marriage fraud, but acquitted her of soliciting for marriage fraud.

After deliberating for a day, the six jurors reached a verdict finding Maria Aurelio Ray guilty of two counts of conspiracy to commit marriage fraud.

The jurors, however, found her not guilty of two counts of solicitation.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman set the sentencing on July 31, 2008 at 9am.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing, Ray's counsel, Joseph Horey, said they are glad that the jury has found the defendant not guilty of the solicitation counts.

"It's a mixed verdict so we have mixed emotions about it," Horey said. "We are hoping she be found not guilty of everything. We will be looking at whatever further steps we may need to take in terms of any post-trial motions."

Assistant attorney general Melissa Simms said they are very pleased that the jury found Ray guilty of conspiracy.

"Other than that, I can't comment as we have three other defendants that are going to be tried in the future," Simms said.

Ray, MD. Saiful Islam, and Minto Minto were charged with one count of conspiracy to commit marriage fraud and one count of solicitation.

In addition, Ray, Minto, and Munnaf Miah were charged with one count of conspiracy to commit marriage fraud and one count of solicitation.

The jury trial for Islam was set for July 21, while the trial for Miah was set for July 28. Minto's trial was scheduled for Aug. 11.

According to the charging information, on March 2007 Ray, Islam, and Minto unlawfully agreed that Islam would marry Alisilynn Mallens for the sole purpose of obtaining a labor or immigration benefit.

In March 2007, Ray, Miah, and Minto allegedly conspired that Miah would marry Severene Kosam for the purpose of obtaining a labor or immigration benefit.

In March 2007, Ray, Islam and Minto allegedly encouraged Kosam and Mallens to arrange the marriage of Islam and Mallens.

On the same period, Ray, Miah, and Minto allegedly encouraged Kosam to marry Miah.

## Woman surprised to find she is already married

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A woman who wanted to marry her boyfriend was surprised upon learning that she is already married to another person.

According to court documents, 19-year-old Weena P. Dulay had wanted to marry a man she'd met on Saipan but lately learned that she was already married to an Edwin U. Becina.

Dulay said that she confronted Elenita E. Camacho and asked her why she did not tell her about the marriage.

Camacho told her that she had forgotten about the deal they had made before her (Dulay) coming to Saipan from the Philippines.

Police arrested Dulay on Tuesday for allegedly engaging in illegal sponsorship of 19 alien workers. Camacho and Stacy N. Bautista are also fac-

ing the same charges. Bautista was arrested last week. It was not clear yet whether Camacho was already apprehended.

Becina, 33, was arrested yesterday for marriage fraud, conspiracy to commit marriage fraud, and document fraud.

In yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a \$25,000 cash bail for Becina's temporary liberty.

Preliminary hearing was set for June 2 at 9am.

Immigration investigator Erwin Flores of the Attorney General's Office's Investigative Unit stated in his report that based on his interview with Dulay last Tuesday, Dulay confessed that in 2006 Camacho facilitated her travel from the Philippines to Saipan.

Flores said that Dulay claimed that the purpose of the travel was for her to marry Camacho's nephew on Saipan.

Camacho sent to the Philippines Dulay's airline ticket for the latter to come to Saipan. Dulay arrived on the island on Sept. 8, 2006.

Dulay, a U.S. citizen, stated that the deal was for her to marry Camacho's nephew, who is an alien contract worker on Saipan.

In return, Camacho's nephew would be able to remain in the CNMI with a valid "Immediate Relative Permit" as the spouse of a Saipan-born female.

Dulay stated that while on Saipan, Camacho never mentioned the nephew to her. She wondered that maybe Camacho forgot about the marriage deal.

When Dulay decided lately to get married, she said she was surprised to learn that she was already married to Becina.

When Dulay confronted Camacho about it, the latter stated

that their marriage was already arranged in the Philippines before she came to Saipan.

Dulay stated that all she remembers was for her to marry Camacho's nephew on Saipan.

Flores said that last Wednesday he reviewed Labor and Immigration documents and found out that Becina submitted to the Department of Labor an application for IR entry permit on Dec. 27, 2006, as the spouse of Dulay.

Records showed that Becina submitted a renewal for his IR entry permit on Dec. 31, 2007 at the Division of Immigration. He indicated on the application that he is an immediate relative of Dulay.

Flores said that marriage records also revealed that Dulay was married to (her boyfriend) Marvin Santos Debelen on Nov. 23, 2007 by Saipan Mayor Juan Borja Tudela.

## MCS

From Page 1

"Should the NMI and Guam unite as 'One Marianas' to form the 51st state of the Union?"

The contestants were asked to thoroughly discuss the concept of "One Marianas" including its advantages and disadvantages. A roadmap of how reunification of the two island communities should be implemented by leaders in Guam and the Northern Marianas, as well in the United States, was included.

Venus delivered a roaring speech in favor of reuniting the two island communities. She cited the economic and

security advantages should Guam and the Northern Marianas reunite.

In arguing the economic advantage of reunification, Venus said that "in this global marketplace, only those communities that network with each other can succeed."

"And when we consider the coming military buildup on Guam, now is the time to forge strategic partnerships that can and will benefit both sides," Venus argued.

She remembered a comment made by Judge David Wiseman when he chaired the Armed Services Committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

"As he told *Pacific Magazine*, popular tourist destinations within easy flying distance of Guam, such as Bali in Indonesia and the Philippines, are off-limits to the U.S. military and their families, making Saipan an attractive alternative," she said.

As for the security advantages, "By forging closer ties with Guam and the United States we can benefit from the enhanced security that a military presence brings. And despite the claims that military bases are military targets, there is no denying that having a military presence in this region serves as both a shield and a deterrent against possible attacks," she said.

Besides these benefits, Venus

added that "the greatest advantage would come not from reuniting with Guam; it would come from uniting with the United States of American."

She said that if one would really get right down to it, "being part of the American political family has helped secure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" for everyone.

Venus was born on Saipan to Filipino parents. As an American citizen, she said this gives her the right to be a Filipina [on American soil] and the freedom to be herself.

Venus is a member of the Sacred Heart Chapter of the National Honor Society, the Red Cross, and the Drama Club.

With experiences in the mock trial competition, Drama Club, and the National Forensic League, she is able to express herself through speech as well as other academic areas.

Venus says she is very ecstatic to win this year's competition, especially to be the first female to win after seven years.

Her speech coach and MCS principal Galvin DeLeon Guerrero said the competition brings "a lot of pressure, with huge expectations."

"We're the ones that people are out to get, which makes it harder every year. But we treat each year as if it's the first year. We don't see ourselves as defending a title, we see our-

selves as winning it anew each year," he said modestly.

This year's second place was a tie between Marianas Baptist Academy sophomore Micaela Tenorio Demapan, 16, and Kagman High School sophomore Mercilynn Kaneshi, 15.

Fourth place went to Calvary Christian Academy senior Kelsey Reyes, 17.

Other contestants in this year's speech competition were Adelay Mojica, 16, Marianas High School; Aesha dB. Sablan, 16, Northern Marianas Academy; Dheena Elayda, 16, Rota High School; Richille Vela Denora, 17, Saipan Southern High School; and Genevieve L. Santos, 17, Tinian High School.

## YUMUL

From Page 1

fers a salary of nearly \$170,000 a year. He also said the economy and education would be his top priorities.

An Iraq war veteran, Yumul also promised to ensure that

CNMI interests are considered as the U.S. military expands its presence on Guam and the rest of the region.

He said he would release more information about his campaign next week.

The election for the delegate position will take place on Nov. 4, 2008. But the electoral process

begins in less than two months. The Election Commission will accept nominating petitions and candidacy documents from July 7 to August 6.

Under the recently enacted delegate law, Northern Marianas will have a representative with limited voting powers to the U.S. House of Representa-

tives. Similar to House members and other delegates, the CNMI delegate will be elected to Congress every two years. He can serve on committees, as well as vote on legislation at the committee level. But floor voting will not be permitted.

The NMI Republican Party officially started accepting let-

ters of intent to run for delegate yesterday, May 23, 2008. The deadline is June 6, 2008, 5pm.

To submit a letter of intent, one must be registered member of the NMI Republican Party. Those who have not yet registered may do so until June 6.

The GOP requires a candidate fee of \$7,500 from aspiring del-

egates.

Other individuals reported to be interested in running for delegate, although not necessary under the Republican Party, are Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan and Judge Juan T. Lizama, who steps down from the bench effective today.



# 3 allegedly burglarize shop of converters

Two men were arrested on Wednesday for allegedly burglarizing a company in Lower Base, stealing catalytic converters, and selling them to recycling centers.

Jesse P. Villagomez, 21, and Ryan Orilly Garde, 19, were apprehended for burglary and theft.

Detective Vincent K. Basa stated in his report that Villagomez, Garde and a third suspect

who is a juvenile all admitted to the charges.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a \$10,000 cash bail each for the defendants' temporary release.

Preliminary hearing was set for May 29 at 9am.

Basa said that on May 1, 2008, Muksedur Rahman called the Department of Public Safety

to report that Balli Steele (formerly Hawaiian Rock Quarry) had been burglarized.

Rahman said that someone damaged and entered the back door of the shop and stole some recycling items.

The following day, Rahman called DPS again to report that he had found some of the stolen catalytic converters at the Huang Zhun Corp. Recycling

Center in Puerto Rico.

An employee of Zhun Corp. told a responding police officer that three local male persons on board a pickup truck arrived at the recycling center. The employee noticed several catalytic converters in the bed of the truck.

The employee said that of the several catalytic converters, he bought only four for \$2.45.

The employee provided the of-

ficer with a copy of the receipt.

That same day, the officer proceeded to Basula Produkto in Lower Base where he found out that three male individuals sold the remaining catalytic converters in that shop.

An employee of Basula Produkto identified the person who sold the converters as Villagomez. Villagomez was accompanied by Garde and another boy.

Villagomez was paid \$108 for the converters.

Basa said the three suspects allegedly confessed to the burglary.

Apparently, it was Villagomez and the juvenile who broke into the shop, while Garde waited outside.

It was not clear yet as of yesterday if the juvenile was also arrested. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

## Lizama tops GTC's graduating class

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School graduated 33 of its sixth graders during its 6th Grade Promotional Ceremony held at the school's campus Thursday.

The event, which took place for an hour at the school's campus, was held to recognize the sixth grade students for completing the first of many miles in their educational journey.

This year's GTC Elementary School Commissioner's Award went to Ezra Justice Dirking Lizama. The Commissioner's Award is the most prestigious award given to the student with the highest grade point average from grades fourth to sixth.

"I would like to thank my teacher, Ms. Jenny, for always pushing me to do my best and for guiding me when I faltered. I feel that my self-confidence and my understanding of the connection between learning and real-life have grown," Lizama said in a speech.

He also received the leadership award and the presidential award for academic achievement in Reading, Language Arts & Writing, Social Studies, and Science.

This year's recipient of the Principal's Award was Jace Allyson T. Pineda, who garnered the second highest grade point average in the school.

Pineda said this school year she has grown in both confidence and the way she is as a person.

"I have become more confident in sharing my thoughts on issues that concern me. As a person, I think I grew by being less worried about what others think about me and more confident in being myself," Pineda said.

Pineda also received the leadership award and the presidential award for academic achievement in Reading, Language Arts & Writing, Math, Social Studies, and Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies.

Other students were also recognized for their hard work and citizenship throughout the

school year.

The citizenship award was given to Pineda, Randy Patrick B. Camacho, Elaine P. Ermitanio, Lorenza Casugay Guiao, and Veora Jaylene Basa.

Basa was also the recipient of the leadership award and the presidential award for academic achievement in Sportsmanship and Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies.

Andrea Mae. S. Sablan was also a recipient of the presidential award for academic achievement in Sportsmanship.

Perfect attendance awards went to Crecensia N. Castro, Shaira C. Sally, Elaine P. Ermitanio, Vanessa R. Sally, Tenta S. Ordonez, Lorenza C. Guiao, and Shawn O. Camacho.

Other recipients of this year's leadership award were Randy B. Camacho, Tasha Eve C. Agulto, and Josiah Orlando.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ  
Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Commissioner's Awardee Ezra Justice Dirking Lizama and Principal's Awardee Jace Allyson Tellei Pineda pose together during the school's 6th Grade Promotional Ceremony yesterday morning.



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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ  
Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Principal's Award recipient Jace Allyson Tellei Pineda with her proud parents Tess and Elmer Pineda.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ  
Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Commissioner's Award recipient Ezra Justice Dirking Lizama with his proud parents Shirley and Ben Lizama.



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### Safeguarding children

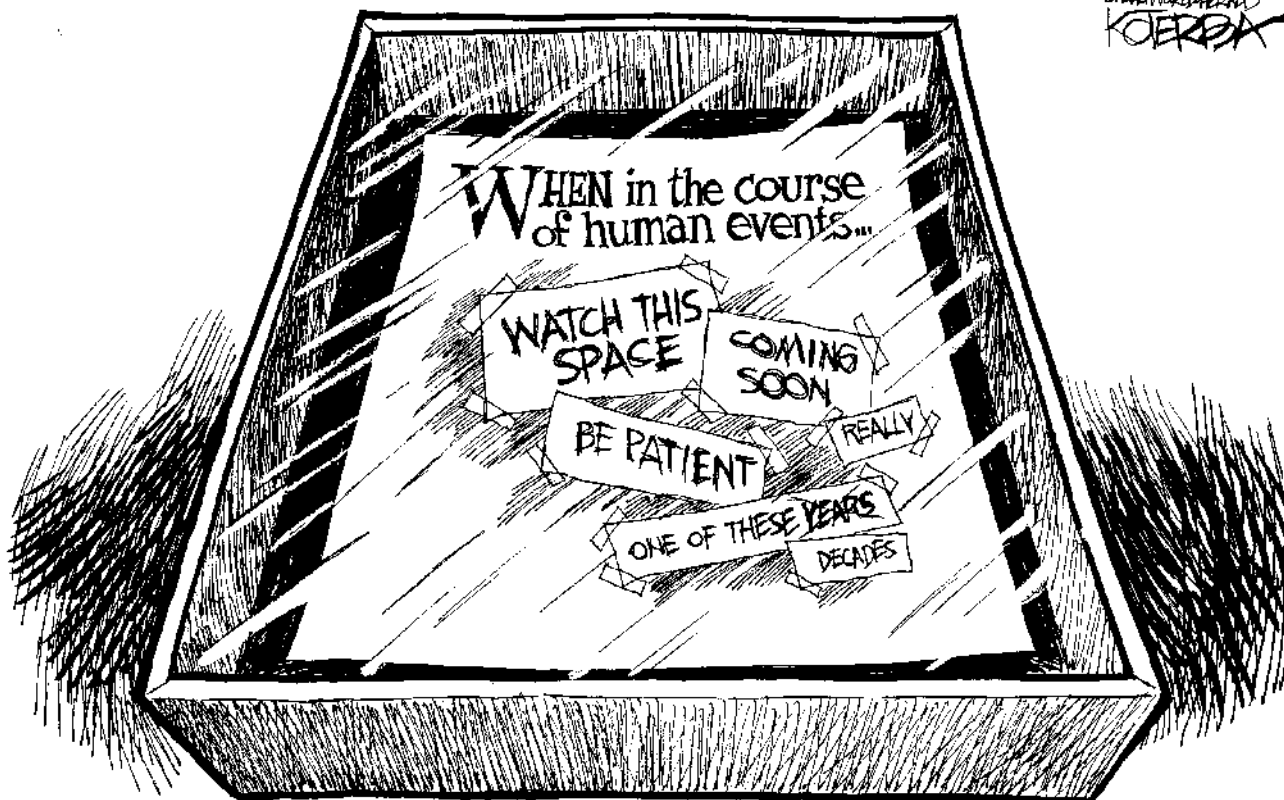
**T**he fight against child pornography got a welcome boost this week when the Supreme Court upheld a law that makes it illegal for anyone to peddle or solicit explicit images of real children.

The decision came in the case of Michael Williams, a Florida man who claimed in an Internet chat room that he possessed lewd pictures of himself and his young daughter; Mr. Williams was offering to share or swap his photos with others having similar material. Mr. Williams, as it turns out, was lying about these pictures, but federal agents found in his possession dozens of photos depicting other children in lewd poses or engaged in sexual acts. Mr. Williams was convicted of one count of pandering under the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today (Protect) Act of 2003, which prohibits knowingly advertising or promoting "any material or purported material in a manner that reflects the belief, or that is intended to cause another to believe, that the material or purported material" is child pornography. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit threw out Mr. Williams's conviction for pandering after finding that the law was vague, overly broad and in violation of the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech. The justices should be commended for reversing the lower court.

Unlike an earlier version of the law, the Protect Act was crafted to target only those who peddle, solicit or claim to be peddling or soliciting pornographic images of real children. Law enforcement officers and child advocates have testified that such images of real children—rather than computer or simulated images of children—are coveted by pedophiles and are in great demand. That demand inevitably leads to the sexual, emotional and psychological abuse of children. By narrowly targeting only those who have or purport to have images of real children, lawmakers not only averted constitutional problems but also sought to quash demand for such material. In his opinion for the 7 to 2 majority, Justice Antonin Scalia made clear that those who accurately hawk material depicting young-looking adults or computer images of children are not covered by the Protect Act; works of art or fiction that are properly advertised as such are also not suspect, as long as real children are not used in producing the work.

The court's decision to approve the Protect Act gives law enforcement officials a powerful tool to combat the scourge of child pornography that has only grown since the advent of the Internet. But this tool must be used carefully. Prosecutors must not attempt to use the law to punish or harass those who produce, sell or consume adult pornography—a product that many find distasteful but that enjoys the protections of the First Amendment. Judges who preside over Protect Act prosecutions should not hesitate to throw out such cases if prosecutors overreach.

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THE DECLARATION OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

## The lion of the Senate

**C**hange is in the air this political season—in the ever-increasing likelihood that a black man will stand as the Democratic nominee for the presidency, and in the near-certainty that Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, the Senate's liberal lion, soon will exit the institution he has bestrode like a colossus for nearly 50 years.

Just as Barack Obama's primary victories remind us that change often goes hand in hand with progress, so the sudden news of Kennedy's illness is a somber reminder that change also is inevitably loss. Call it tragic wisdom.

Watching the outpouring of emotion from both sides of the aisle Tuesday at the news of Kennedy's condition, it was clear that his senatorial colleagues already are stricken by his impending departure. Partly, of course, that's because Kennedy's tenure in that chamber spans one of the most tumultuous eras in U.S. history. He will exit the Senate as its third-longest-serving member ever. When he first took his seat in 1962, Jim Crow and its de facto shadow were a fact of American life, and women's rights barely extended beyond the franchise. This year, Kennedy enthusiastically endorsed and campaigned for Obama in his contest against Hillary Rodham Clinton.

A new world, surely, and one he helped usher in. But also one that seems to be unfolding without three qualities that distinguished Kennedy's long service.

The first is empathy. It's shocking just how tenuous belief in the possibility of empathy as a public emotion has become. Kennedy's brother, Bobby, was fond of quoting the ancient Greeks. One of them, Thucydides, once was asked, "When will there be justice in Athens?" He replied, "There will be justice in Athens when those who are not injured are as outraged as those who are."

If Ted Kennedy's 46 years in the Senate have stood for anything, it is for the enduring power of that antique insight. He is a rich, wonderfully connected Boston Irishman, and yet his life's labors have been on behalf of blacks and women and Hispanics, for people who sweated for a minimum wage and couldn't pay their sick child's doctor's bill and asked for nothing more than a public school good enough to give their child a fair foothold on the ladder's next rung. Their slights and injuries were his own.

Today, increasing numbers of Americans and their politicians are lost to narcissism and its communal expression—identity politics. We believe that no one can feel our pain but us, and we care for none outside our tribe. Kennedy's career has been a half-century reproach to that crabbed notion of the American condition. He believed unshakably in solidarity and the common good, and if that now seems quaint, the fault—and the loss—is ours and not his.

Child of privilege that he undoubtedly was, Kennedy also stood for a second quality that is fading: the belief that after the accumulation of wealth came an ambition—indeed, an obligation—for public service. It's a notion this new Gilded Age finds slightly ridiculous,

By TIM RUTTEN

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but not long ago we expected our national leaders to amass their fortunes before taking office and not during or immediately after. There is a meanness of spirit to an age that commoditizes elective office into an economic opportunity.

Finally, one of the reasons Kennedy's Senate comrades will feel his departure so acutely is that he always stood for a civil partisanship. There was no more committed liberal Democrat in that chamber.

A struggle with Kennedy was a bare-knuckle fight to the finish, but always according to traditional politics' version of the Marquess of Queensberry Rules. It was never personal, and differences never precluded friendship, which is why the senior Massachusetts senator could work with George Bush or John McCain or Orrin Hatch, and will leave office with a record as one of the most effective lawmakers of all time. Nothing deforms our contemporary politics in quite the way the loss of Kennedy's old-fashioned civility does.

In his recently published memoir, Ted Sorensen, John Kennedy's special counselor, recalled how the president secretly dispatched him, along with Bobby, to assist his youngest sibling in his first run for the Senate. Teddy's opponent was the favorite nephew of Democratic House Speaker John McCormack, whose help JFK desperately needed, so it was necessary to maintain fictional neutrality.

Sorensen thought Teddy a callow candidate. But his brothers' murders and personal tragedy changed that. For a time, it seemed he might become an American Parnell, a leader of vision and skill undone by personal appetites. That too was surmounted. Today, Sorensen judges him thus: "More respected and effective today than some presidents have been, Ted long ago came to terms with the fact that he need not be president to fulfill his portion of the Kennedy legacy. ... I think he will ultimately die in the Senate. More active and at home in that body than either of his brothers, Ted was—and still is—the most relaxed campaigner of the three, with an easier style on the public platform, the best politician, better able to work with other senators in both parties."

"Always the liberal lion, he has proven to be a courageous battler on the cutting edge of issues both domestic and foreign, maintaining the liberal tradition of his brothers, even when others in the Democratic Party showed less courage. ... Jack and Bobby would have been proud."

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# When economy revives, how will we know?

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

**W**ith any luck, the second half of this year will be better than the so-far rocky first half. The Federal Reserve chief hopes that is the case. So does President Bush. For the rest of us mere mortals, it feels like the pain is getting worse.

When the economy begins to snap out of its funk, how will we know?

Like calling a recession, pinpointing the turnaround can be as much art as science. Economists agree there could be some strong signals to look for, however: A calmer stock market, an end to falling home prices and more jobs being created.

We're not there yet.

The economy by all accounts is suffering through difficult times, although some economists have backed off their recession talk. Economic growth has slowed sharply and employers have cut jobs for four months in a row as problems in housing, credit and financial markets forced skittish people and businesses alike to hunker down.

Even though a Labor Department report Thursday showed the number of newly laid off workers filing for unemployment benefits dropped last week to the lowest level in a month, claims remain high enough to indicate the labor market is sluggish.

Still, there's hope that the economy's growth will begin picking up later this year.

Experts will be looking at a variety of barometers to mark the arrival of a rebound, but it's by no means definitive or foolproof.

One important indicator is the stock market. The turbulence that has engulfed Wall Street since last summer and hit a crisis point with the near collapse of investment firm Bear Stearns, has calmed somewhat, but the situation is still "far from normal," Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke recently observed.

The Dow Jones industrial average, for instance, has clawed its way out of a recent bottom—of 11,740.15—hit in March. However, the index hovering just under 13,000 is well below its peak of 14,087.55 set in early October of last year. Financial markets remain fragile.

Investors are looking ahead—at the economy's prospects and individual businesses—when they make investment decisions and are buying or selling stocks.

"The canary in the coal mine is really financial markets," said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State University. "The stock market recovery almost always precedes the economic recovery by about six months or so. The exception was in the 2001 recession. Because of the dot.com crisis, the stock market was so badly battered it took a while for it to get back to full speed," Sohn said. By his count, after the 2001 recession, the stock market lagged the economic recovery by one year.

In the current bout of economic troubles, though, fallout from the two-year-old housing collapse and subsequent credit and finan-

cial problems has driven the pullback by consumers, businesses and Wall Street.

That's why economists—this time around—will be looking for signs of stabilization in the housing market. Specifically, house prices will have to stop falling or at least decline at a slower pace in many parts of the country. As many Americans have watched their single-biggest asset—their home—shrink in value, they have become much more cautious in the spending, contributing to the economy's slowdown.

On Thursday, the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight said U.S. home prices fell 3.1 percent year-over-year in the first quarter, the largest drop in the 17-year history of tracking the data.

House-price improvements also are important to a return to sta-

## U.S. households are more in debt and under greater pressure to restrain spending. Zandi said the share of households' after-tax income that goes to serving their financial obligations was 19.3 percent in 2007. That was up from 17.9 percent in 2000 and 17.2 percent in 1989—the years preceding the last two recessions.

bility because house prices figure into the value of a host of securities, such as mortgage securities and derivatives.

And, improving house prices also would ripple through credit markets, making lenders more willing to make loans to people and businesses. That, in turn, would help bolster confidence in financial markets, economists said.

"Until the housing and credit markets improve, businesses and consumers will be doubting Thomases—there is no question," said Brian Bethune, economist at Global Insight.

Forecasters at the National Association for Business Economics believe the worst of the housing slump and the credit crunch might end this year. The forecasters are hopeful that home sales will hit bottom this year. House prices, though, are still expected to drop this year and next. Some predict house prices won't turn up until the spring selling season of 2010.

Analysts also will be looking for zooming gasoline and other en-

ergy prices to settle down. Gasoline is approaching \$4 a gallon on average nationally and oil has blown past \$130 a barrel, from \$100 at the beginning of the year. An easing of high food and other commodity prices also would be welcomed. High prices, especially for energy, are taking a bite out of paychecks, undermining consumer purchasing power, and putting a squeeze on businesses' profits.

Unlike the recessions in 2001 and 1990-1991, people, more so than businesses, are bearing the brunt of the economy's current woes.

"It is almost unprecedented in the post World War II period to have a recession be driven by a pullback in consumer spending, versus a pullback in business spending," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "This one is unique in that sense. Businesses are pulling back but they are more reacting to consumers." He's among those in the recession camp.

U.S. households are more in debt and under greater pressure to restrain spending. Zandi said the share of households' after-tax income that goes to serving their financial obligations was 19.3 percent in 2007. That was up from 17.9 percent in 2000 and 17.2 percent in 1989—the years preceding the last two recessions.

In contrast, a debt-burden measure for nonfinancial businesses shows that 10 percent of their cash flow is going to interest payments on debt, Zandi said. That's down from around 25 percent in 2001 and 30 percent in the 1990-1991 recession, he said.

Against that backdrop, another barometer for economic revival would be a turnaround in sagging consumer confidence. The hope: if people cast off their gloomy mind-set, they'll be more likely to boost spending, which would energize the national economy.

The Fed has been hoping to turn consumer psychology and thus heal the economy through its most aggressive rate-cutting campaign in decades. The Bush administration is counting on those powerful rates reductions along with billions of dollars worth of rebate checks to lift the U.S. out of its slump in the second half of this year.

Fed officials viewed economic activity as "likely to be particularly weak in the first half of 2008; some rebound was anticipated in the second half of the year," according to Fed documents released Wednesday. Still, economic growth for the year as a whole is likely to be feeble.

Even if that second-half rebound happens, businesses are likely to remain cautious in hiring, waiting for signs that any recovery has real staying power. The unemployment rate, now at 5 percent, could rise to 6 percent or higher next year, some economists said.

So the job market needs to get back to full throttle before the economy is truly back on firm footing. After the last two recessions, the country was still losing jobs as the economy struggled to recover.

Some believe the country will experience a "W" shaped recovery. That's where the economy picks up with the help of the stimulus, loses steam as that boost fades and then picks up again in the second half of 2009.

It's hard to say with certainty how it will turn out. Each period of economic stress "has its own kind of biography," Bethune said.

# Your friend, the kitchen

By **PAUL ROBERTS**  
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

**I**f Americans are feeling frustrated about food, who can blame us? It's not just the bugs in the burger or the hormones in Chinese seafood—or even the skyrocketing prices. It's that most of us feel powerless to fix things. We may be a nation of do-it-yourselfers when it comes to deck repair or tax returns, but even as our industrial food system grows less reliable, our reliance on that system has never been higher.

What's to be done? Growing our own isn't a solid option anymore. Beyond the occasional backyard garden, few of us have the capacity to produce our own food. But until the last few decades, most Americans still exercised a lot of control over the quality and cost of the food entering our home: We cooked almost every day. We bought ingredients and turned them into meals; we planned menus and stocked pantries, all of which required thinking about, and being connected to, our food.

Today, despite a mania for cookbooks, celebrity chefs and 24-hour programming on the Food Network, cooking is a dying art. According to the Department of Agriculture, half of our food dollars are spent on items cooked outside the home, and almost half of the meals served in the average U.S. household lack even a single from-scratch item.

Marketing surveys blame our crowded schedules, our "time poverty": The average American can spare just 30 minutes a day for the kitchen. But the sad truth is, many of us no longer know what that room is for. Cooking is an acquired skill, with specific tools and steps, helped by practice. Yet because so many of the roughly 100 million consumers born since the 1970s grew up in households where cooking was already passe, it's a skill we never learned.

Yet if we're serious about reclaiming control of our food—and if we're tired of waiting for Washington to fix things for us—the kitchen is where we have to start.

Declaring independence from the industrial food chain won't be easy, not least because it means rewriting one of America's most successful economic stories. Between 1900 and 1970, as consumers increasingly outsourced cooking to food companies, our daily kitchen time dropped from four hours to one. And if the food industry profited handsomely, consumers did too. We might have gotten less independent, but our food got safer, more varied and, above all, more convenient, freeing up hours to spend on education, leisure and, of course, earning extra income.

But by the 1970s and '80s, we had discovered some darker truths about this trade-off. Large-scale, high-speed manufacturing not only damages the nutritional quality of food, it makes it harder to control food-borne illnesses. And for all the benefits of convenience, the ability to eat anything at any time bore no small connection to our expanding waistlines.

And now we've found that "added value," the very core of the modern food business, isn't such a good deal either. A model based on selling ever more convenience requires either that consumers keep getting richer or that food keeps getting cheaper—conditions that are, suddenly, no longer assured.

Food companies are trying to keep the natives calm. They're cutting costs by replacing expensive ingredients, such as butter in cookies and crackers or cocoa butter in chocolates, with cheaper ones, such as hydrogenated vegetable oils. They're combing the planet for cheaper suppliers (although the Chinese food scandal points up the limits of that strategy). And some are considering bringing out less-expensive products to appease budget-conscious consumers.

But mainly, food companies are doing what they've always done,

quietly passing on cost increases to us because, as far as they can see, we've got nowhere else to go.

They have a point. As a culture, we're so divorced from our food that we're not only cooking less, we often can't even recognize food when we see it. More and more of us accept warehouse-ripened fruit as real; we favor refined flours to whole-grain; we reject meats that aren't fattened on grain and pumped with artificial juice and flavor enhancers. For that matter, many of us have been eating synthetic flavors so long that we prefer them to the real thing. Benzaldehyde, or artificial cherry, is at least as popular today as real cherry flavor. And until the food industry withdrew diacetyl over concerns that it caused lung disease, the chemical had largely become "butter" for consumers of microwave popcorn.

But adversity is the mother of invention. If we've lost our kitchen skills and our connection to food, both can be regained. Schools are bringing back home economics classes. Cooking classes are gaining in popularity, and some cookbook publishers are simplifying recipes to help novices find their way.

Yes, we've heard about kitchen renaissances before. But this one comes with a potent incentive: When done thoughtfully, home-cooked food is not just healthier, safer and better tasting but much cheaper than the factory version.






Granted, there's still our time poverty. Hungry as we may be for change, we're still juggling work, family and errands. But let's be honest. We may be a busy nation, but the same "average" American who has just 30 minutes for the kitchen is somehow finding 240 minutes each day to watch TV. Some of that programming may even involve a celebrity chef. But if we're going to give food the priority it deserves, we'll need to spend a little less time watching someone else do the cooking.



Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼79°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▼77
Palau	T'Storms	▲86 ▼77
Yap	T'Storms	▲87 ▼76
Chuuk	T'Storms	▲87 ▼78
Pohnpei	T>Showers	▲90 ▼79
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Majuro	T'Storms	▲84 ▼77

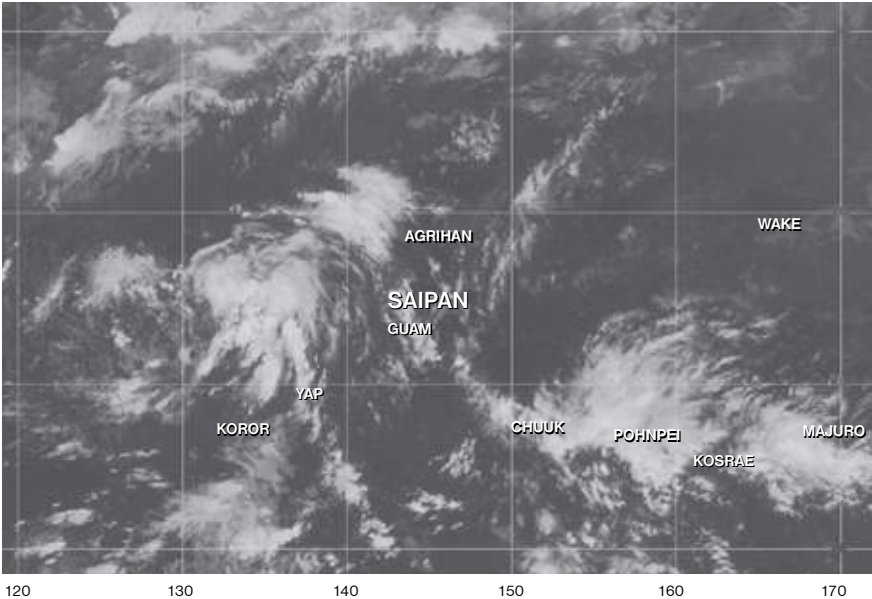
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲61 ▼49
Beijing	Sunny	▲93 ▼66
Hong Kong	T>Showers	▲88 ▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼73
London	Showers	▲72 ▼54
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲70 ▼56
Manila	T>Showers	▲88 ▼79
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲61 ▼45
Miami	T>Showers	▲89 ▼72
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲67 ▼53
Osaka	Rain	▲73 ▼59
Paris	Showers	▲66 ▼57
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲78 ▼61
Rome	Cloudy	▲74 ▼61
Salem	Showers	▲69 ▼50
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲63 ▼53
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲79 ▼54
Tokyo	Rain	▲70 ▼61
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲71 ▼51

### Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:36AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:51AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
4:32PM Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
11:59PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2008**  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergent trade-winds and upper-level divergence are combined to enhance scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near the Marianas, between 10N and 20N from 140E to 146E. Also... between 14N and 20N from 134E to 140E. A monsoon trough runs southeastward from 14N130E to a weak circulation centered northwest of Yap at 12N133E, then curves southwestward to 10N135E to 7N134E to 2N131E. Divergence aloft is coupled with convergent low-level winds to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Koror and Yap, between 1N and 10N from 132E to 138E. A surface trough extends northwestward from 2N152E to 6N148E. Scattered showers are found south of Chuuk, within 50 miles of the trough. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers southeast of Chuuk, within 80 miles of a line from EQ155E to 4N153E. An upper-level trough runs northwestward from EQ164E to Pohnpei at 7N158E to 10N156E. Divergence associated with this trough is combined with trade-wind convergence to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line from 10N154E to 4N141E. This area includes Kosrae and south of Kwajalein and Majuro.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46AM	6:41PM
Sunday	5:46AM	6:42PM
Monday	5:46AM	6:42PM
Tuesday	5:46AM	6:42PM
Wednesday	5:46AM	6:43PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:13PM	9:40AM*
Sunday	10:56PM	10:33AM*
Monday	11:37PM	11:25AM*
Tuesday	11:37PM**	11:25AM
Wednesday	12:16AM	12:16PM

\*Following Day \*\*Preceding Day

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- **For announcements:**
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Manila</b> CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	<b>Manila-Saipan</b> CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
<b>Saipan-Seoul</b> OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	<b>Seoul-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Saipan-Guanzhou</b> CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	<b>Guanzhou-Saipan</b> CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Hongkong</b> CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	<b>Hongkong-Guam</b> CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



Schedule of Religious Services		
CATHOLIC		
<b>Mt. Carmel Cathedral</b> Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm		
<b>Korean Center</b> Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm		
<b>Kristo Rai Parish</b> Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm		
<b>Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish</b> Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am		
<b>Saint Jude Parish</b> Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm		
<b>San Antonio Parish</b> Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm		
<b>San Francisco de Borja-Rota</b> Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm		
<b>San Isidro-Rota</b> Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm		
<b>San Jose (Oleai) Parish</b> Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm		
<b>San Roque Parish</b> Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am		
<b>San Vicente Parish</b> Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm		
<b>Santa Remedios</b> Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism		
<b>Santa Soledad</b> Sunday: 7:30am		
PROTESTANT		
<b>Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan</b> Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm		
<b>Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm		
<b>Chinese Christian Church of Saipan</b> Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm		
<b>Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan</b> Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm		
<b>Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan</b> St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions		
<b>Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan</b> Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm		
<b>Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan</b> Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)		
<b>Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville</b> Sunday Services 9:00 AM Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto		
<b>Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)</b> Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)		
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)		
<b>Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan</b> English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday		
<b>Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm		
<b>Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan</b> Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)		
<b>Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan</b> English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm		
<b>Missions Connection Ministry</b> Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm		
<b>Northern Marianas Christian Church</b> Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620		
<b>Saipan Bible Fellowship Church</b> Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm		
<b>Saipan Christian Church</b> Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)		
<b>Saipan Church of Christ</b> Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm		
<b>Saipan Community Church</b> (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm		
<b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan</b> (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm		
<b>First Baptist Church</b> (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Afetna St., San Antonio Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday	7pm	worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. McLure at 234-1939/235-7779.		
<b>Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center</b> Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism		
<b>Upper Room International Ministries</b> Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service,
Koblerville		
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan		
<b>Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church</b> Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S		



**Tinian Shipping wants tax cuts**  
Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Ltd., has asked the Commonwealth Ports Authority to assist one of its subsidiaries, the financially beleaguered Tinian Shipping, by reducing the passenger head tax from \$3.75 to \$1 for the company staff for two years. The request was made by Michael Kwan, chairman of Hong Kong Entertainment, in a letter sent to Roman S. Palacios, CPA board chairman as the company struggled to survive the effects of Asia’s financial crisis.

**OPA: DPS ignored audit reports**  
Despite the urgency, the Department of Public Safety has continued to ignore recommendations from previous audit reports of the Office of Public Auditor, which may have led to present problems confronting the vital government agency. The department has also failed to respond to audit requirements on previous fiscal years in spite of the requests from Finance Sec. Lucy Nielsen, according to legislators.

**CNMI seeks US help to dispose vessels of illegal immigrants**  
Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas has asked the US Marshals in Guam to help the CNMI get rid of the four ships used by illegal Chinese immigrants because of the danger the vessels pose to the island-municipality of Tinian in the coming typhoon season. During Friday’s board meeting, Salas said he does not see any reason why the US Marshall will not be able to assist the Commonwealth since it has helped Guam officials in disposing of the ships used by Chinese in entering Guam.

**MAY 24, 2000**  
**Teno hopes OIA acts on report**  
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday expressed hope for appropriate actions against federal officials and employees involved in the alleged on-the-job political campaign at the Office of Insular Affairs which has led to smear campaign against the CNMI. “The investigation is coming out and perhaps, whatever the results of the investigation are, I hope something will be done,” he told reporters in an interview.

**MHS Teacher Academy closes its doors**  
As school year 1999-2000 concludes in less than three weeks, one class at Marianas High School will remain closed forever. The decade old Teacher Academy, a unique program which has nurtured students into becoming successful teaching professionals as early as the high school level will cease to be offered at the public high school starting next school year.

**CNMI gets \$1M in foreign investments**  
The Northern Marianas is slowly regaining its image as a haven for investments in Micronesia in what could be a result of the ongoing discussions in the Legislature on proposals to eliminate restrictive and protectionist foreign investments policies. The Department of Commerce yesterday disclosed six foreign investors, with promise to pour over \$1 million into the local economy, have submitted applications for Business Certificate last year.

**MAY 24, 2001**  
**Bill seeks majority vote for 3 highest positions**  
Winning election candidates in three major positions may not be allowed to assume office if they fail to garner more than 50 percent of total votes cast. This, after Senate Vice President Thomas Villagomez introduced legislation seeking to hold a run-off election between two candidates with highest votes if none of them reaped at least 50 percent plus one vote of total ballots cast.

**Northern Islands development seen to nourish NMI economy**  
An organized plan to develop the Northern Islands, as initiated by the municipality’s chief, lists a string of optimistic outcomes that generally hope to spur economic revival for the entire CNMI. According to Northern Islands Mayor Joseph T. Ogumoro, the step by step institution of the development plan is eyed, among many others, to create jobs, enhance the local tourism industry, expand the service industry and increase government revenues not only on the remote islands but also on Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

# Business

## Gas tops \$3.83

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Americans getting an early start on the Memorial Day weekend found that gasoline prices again sprinted to a new record high overnight, reaching a national average above \$3.83 a gallon. Some analysts predict gas will break past \$4 as early as next week.

Oil prices, meanwhile, fell Thursday after setting a new trading record of \$135.09 overnight. A stronger dollar gave some investors reason to sell oil futures to lock in profits from crude’s record run. But concerns about falling supplies and rising demand are expected to keep propelling prices higher in the days and weeks to come.

Oil’s surge is contributing directly to the pain consumers feel every time they fill up. At the pump, the average national price of a gallon of regular gas rose 2.4 cents overnight to \$3.831, according to a survey of stations by AAA and the

Oil Price Information Service. Prices are 61 cents higher than a year ago.

Unlike last year, oil prices are setting new record highs on a daily basis. That’s pushing gas prices higher, and analysts see no reason for gas not to follow.

“We’re going to blast past \$4,” said James Cordier, president of Tampa, Fla.-based trading firms Liberty Trading Group and OptionSellers.com.

Prices may rise as high as \$3.90 on a national basis by this weekend, he said. Prices are already above \$4 a gallon at many stations around the country, and are averaging more than \$4 in California, New York and Illinois, among other states.

Oil prices rose to \$135.09 a barrel in overnight electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange before retreating to settle down \$2.36 at \$130.81 a barrel by afternoon in New York.

## Gov’t home price index posts largest plunge yet

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—A home-price index considered to be the most comprehensive reading of the U.S. market posted the sharpest decline in its 17-year history, and analysts say housing has yet to bottom out.

Rapidly falling home prices in California, Florida and Nevada skewed the national results.

The Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight said Thursday that home prices fell 3.1 percent in the first quarter compared with last year.

It was only the second quarter of price declines since the index started in 1991. The price index first declined on a year-over-year basis in the final quarter of 2007, when it dropped 0.45 percent.

Another widely followed reading, the Standard & Poor’s/

Case-Shiller index, has shown larger declines for major U.S. metropolitan areas. But analysts say the government index provides a more comprehensive reading of nationwide housing market.

That’s particularly true for midwestern states, where prices never skyrocketed and have been less affected by the real estate downturn.

“Most people don’t live in a Miami condo,” said Michael Englund, chief economist with Action Economics in Boulder, Colo.

Still, declines in the government index, which focuses on less expensive properties and includes fewer houses bought with risky home loans that have gone sour over the past year, show the depth of the housing market’s troubles.

## Stocks advance as oil declines

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Wall Street steadied itself Thursday after two sessions of steep declines, rebounding moderately as oil prices stepped back from their frenetic upward run.

Oil set another trading record overnight—moving above \$135 per barrel for the first time—then pulled back below \$131, offering some relief for stock investors. Meanwhile, the Labor Department said the number of workers seeking unemployment benefits declined by 9,000 last week to 365,000. The market expected a slight increase.

But the economic fallout from ascendent energy prices remained Wall Street’s focus.

“People are concerned about



# Nation

## ACROSS THE NATION

### 3 arrested in shooting deaths of 2 LSU students

**BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)**—Three young men, including two who had been working offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, have been arrested in the killing of two Louisiana State University graduate students late last year, authorities said Thursday. Michael Jermaine Lewis, 19, and Casey Gathers, 20, were arrested Thursday and were being booked on two counts each of first-degree murder, said Gary Durham, acting chief of the LSU police department. Devin Jamell Parker, 19, was arrested Wednesday on an unrelated robbery charge, also was being booked on the murder counts.

### 400 jurors could be screened for Simpson trial

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—Court officials and lawyers preparing for O.J. Simpson's armed robbery trial said Thursday that lengthy questionnaires will be given to a jury pool that could number 400 or more. The judge told prosecutors and lawyers for the former football star and two co-defendants that she plans to summon prospective jurors and have them start filling out forms at least two weeks before trial starts Sept. 8. Simpson, Charles Ehrlich and Clarence "C.J." Stewart face kidnapping and other charges after allegedly robbing sports memorabilia dealers in a Las Vegas hotel room in September.

### California is rewriting its marriage forms for gays

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—You have to figure "bride" and "groom" are out. So, what will the California marriage license look like in the new era of same-sex marriages? Will it list "Partner A" and "Partner B"? "Intended No. 1" and "Intended No. 2"? Or will it contain just blank spaces for the betrothed? The court decision last week that legalized gay marriage in California has created a semantic puzzle with scant time to solve it. With the ruling tentatively set to take effect June 16, state bureaucrats must rapidly rewrite, print and distribute a marriage license application. Thousands of same-sex couples are expected to flock to the state next month to wed. But typically it takes the state months to churn out new forms.

### LA welcomes 18,000 new citizens, a city record

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Record crowds of immigrants—more than 18,000 in all—took citizenship oaths here Thursday, a showing credited to rising fees, a heated debate over illegal immigration and one of the brand-new Americans raising their hands. The need for three separate ceremonies at the Los Angeles Convention Center—a local record for the number of people sworn in one day—reflected a 350 percent increase in citizenship applications last summer before immigration fees jumped from \$400 to \$675 on Aug. 1. On top of that, Spanish-language media, including Univision and Telemundo, launched massive campaigns to get more immigrants to become citizens and vote.

### Petraeus says by fall he may seek Iraq troop cuts

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Gen. David Petraeus said Thursday he is likely to recommend further troop reductions in Iraq but won't promise more details until fall—timing that plunges the four-star Army general into the heart of this year's presidential elections. The fall assessment would come at a critical time in both American and Iraqi politics. U.S. voters likely will be deciding between a GOP candidate committed to keeping troops in Iraq as long as Petraeus and other ground commanders say is necessary, and a Democratic challenger who supports the immediate withdrawal of forces. Petraeus said conditions on the ground will still dictate his decision. But by September, when he is slated to assume control of U.S. Central Command, "my sense is that I will be able to make a recommendation at that time for some further reductions," he said.

## Senate deals Bush a defeat on Iraq war spending

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—In a stunning vote that illustrated President Bush's diminished standing, the Senate on Thursday ignored his veto threat and added tens of billions of dollars for veterans and the unemployed to his Iraq war spending bill.

A majority of Republicans broke ranks with Bush on a veto-proof 75-22 vote while adding more than \$10 billion for various other domestic programs, including heating subsidies for the poor, wildfire fighting, roads and bridge repair, and health research.

Democrats crowded about their

victory. But the developments meant more confusion about when the must-pass measure might actually become law and what the final version will contain.

Senators voted 70-26 to approve \$165 billion to fulfill Bush's request for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan into next spring, when Bush's successor will set war policy. Overall, the measure contains \$212 billion over the coming two years—\$28 billion more than the administration sought—plus about \$50 billion more through 2017 for veterans' education benefits.

Bush has promised to veto the Iraq spending if it exceeds his request. He has enough GOP support in the House to sustain a veto.

But the spectacle of 25 Senate Republicans abandoning the White House and voting to extend jobless benefits by 13 weeks and boost the GI Bill to provide veterans enough money to pay for a four-year education at a public institution made it plain that Bush's influence is waning.

"What influence?" said a triumphant Harry Reid of Nevada, the Senate's top Democrat. Reid had been skeptical of adding dozens of

items favored by the free-spending Appropriations Committee to Bush's war request.

But the committee's plan contained so many smaller items favored by senators in both parties—including money for Gulf Coast Hurricane recovery, NASA, and additional food and drug safety inspectors—that even GOP conservatives such as Larry Craig and Mike Crapo of Idaho rebuffed the White House. The duo were strong supporters of \$400 million to subsidize schools in rural counties hit hard by declines in timber revenues.

## Tornadoes rip through Colorado, Wyoming; 1 killed

**WINDSOR, Colo. (AP)**—Tornadoes touched down in northern Colorado and southern Wyoming on Thursday, damaging buildings, flipping vehicles and killing at least one person.

The National Weather Service said a large tornado touched down just after noon near Platteville, about 50 miles north of Denver. It then moved northward through or near several towns, tearing the roofs off buildings, downing power lines and crumpling farm equipment.

A second tornado touched down later in near Johnstown, about 10 miles northwest of Platteville, the weather service reported. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Windsor, a farm town of about 16,000, appeared the hardest hit. Video footage showed a dark gray funnel perhaps a quarter-mile wide near the town with heavy hail and rain. At least one residential neighborhood in Windsor appeared to have suffered heavy damage. Television footage showed several rail



Courtney Guck searches his mom's house for her cat that is missing in Windsor, Colo. Thursday, May 22, 2008. AP

tanker cars lying on their sides in downtown Windsor.

"It passed right over us like a big, white monster," said 87-year-old Windsor resident Thomas Coupe.

Weld County Sheriff John Cooke

said a man was killed at a campground west of Greeley. He declined to say how the man was killed.

Emergency personnel were still trying to determine how many people were hurt, and how badly.

At least seven people were taken to the Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland with injuries, said hospital spokesman Gary Kimsey. The nature and extent of their injuries were not immediately known.

## Homes burn as fire spreads in central California



A fire destroyed this house in Corralitos, Calif., Thursday, May 22, 2008. AP

**CORRALITOS, Calif. (AP)**—Gusty winds fanned a wildfire Thursday that burned several homes, forced evacuations and closed schools in the mountains of central California, where rugged terrain frustrated efforts to get a handle on the fast-moving blaze.

Hundreds of people fled as the nearly 4-square-mile fire continued to grow despite more than 500 firefighters and a swarm of tanker planes and helicopters dousing the area.

Residents of hundreds of homes were asked to leave, but many are unoccupied vacation houses. No injuries had been reported.

The blaze had grown to more than 2,500 acres by early afternoon and was

completely uncontained, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The flames produced thick smoke that could be seen miles away.

The mountain range separates Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties, about 15 miles south of San Jose, and the rural area is dotted with homes.

At least 10 homes were destroyed, and three schools closed their doors Thursday, officials said.

Santa Clara and Santa Cruz county officials said hundreds of people evacuated, including 200 students from a summer camp. Some were being taken to an evacuation center in Watsonville set up by the Red Cross.

## Texas seizure of polygamist-sect kids thrown out

**SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)**—In a ruling that could torpedo the case against the West Texas polygamist sect, a state appeals court Thursday said authorities had no right to seize more than 440 children in a raid on the splinter group's compound last month.

The Third Court of Appeals in Austin said the state failed to show the youngsters were in any immediate danger, the only grounds in Texas law for taking children from their parents without court action.

It was not clear when the children—now scattered in foster homes across the

state—might be returned to their parents. The ruling gave a lower-court judge 10 days to release the youngsters from custody, but the state could appeal to the Texas Supreme Court and block that.

The decision in one of the biggest child-custody cases in U.S. history was a humiliating defeat for the state Child Protective Services agency. It was hailed as vindication by members of the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, who claimed they were being persecuted for their religious beliefs.



# Asia

## Workers start to raze hard-hit town in China

**BEICHUAN, China (AP)**—Heavy equipment began toppling the few buildings left standing in this quake-stricken town once home to 30,000 people, and workers in white protective suits sprayed disinfectant Thursday in the silent streets amid roaming dogs and chickens.

Ten days after China's worst disaster in a generation, it appears the search for survivors—and even the dead—was giving way to the first steps toward reconstruction.

The smell of bleach in Beichuan was overpowering as workers in the white suits and black rubber boots sprayed disinfectant on buildings,

trees, car wheels and the soles of shoes of people leaving the town, where thousands are still likely buried. A layer of lime—used as a disinfectant to sprinkle on bodies—covered roads and any surface where corpses were yet to be recovered.

"There are no more signs of life," said 24-year-old soldier Li Zichuan. He watched excavators demolishing what is left of the Beichuan Middle School, where residents say hundreds of students and teachers were killed.

"During the recovery operation, we dug many bodies up here, so now all that is left is to disinfect the place and then demolish it."

### QUAKE FACTS

Latest facts about the May 12 earthquake that struck China's Sichuan province, the country's worst in 30 years:

- Magnitude: measured at 7.9 by the U.S. Geological Survey; 8.0 by Chinese officials.
- Disaster area population: 20 million.
- Dead: 51,151.

- Missing: 29,328.
- Injured: 288,431.
- Homeless: 5 million.
- Classrooms destroyed: 6,898.
- Orphans: 4,000.
- Tents needed: 3.3 million.
- Animals killed: 12.5 million.
- Company losses: \$9.5 billion.
- Reconstruction: \$10 billion fund set up by government.

## Dozens sickened in Japan after suicide

**TOKYO (AP)**—A Japanese farmer who committed suicide by drinking pesticide vomited the poison at a hospital before he died, releasing toxic fumes that sickened more than 50 people, the hospital said Thursday.

Doctors were trying to pump the 34-year-old man's stomach when he threw up, spraying his rescuers with chloropicrin, causing 54 doctors, nurses and patients to develop breathing problems and eye sores.

Ten of them were hospitalized themselves, and 90 hospital personnel had to be called in to help with the emergency Wednesday night, said Tomoko Nagao, spokeswoman for the Red Cross Kumamoto Hospital in southern Japan.

The most severely injured was a 72-year-old pneumonia patient, whose condition worsened after exposure to the fumes, Nagao said. The hospital's emergency ward was closed and firefighters called in to decontaminate it.

# World



An Iraqi policeman checks the identity cards of arrested suspects in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, Thursday, May 22, 2008.

## US strike on al-Qaida kills children

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—A U.S. helicopter strike north of Baghdad killed eight people in a vehicle, including at least two children, Iraqi officials said Thursday, insisting all the dead were civilians. The U.S. military said six were al-Qaida militants but acknowledged children were killed.

AP Television News footage showed the bodies of three children in blood-drenched clothes—the eldest appearing to be in his early teens—along

with the bodies of five men, at the hospital in Beiji, where the dead were taken after Wednesday evening's strike.

Iraqi and U.S. officials each put the number of slain children at two. The reason for the discrepancies between the two accounts and the TV footage was not known.

It was the latest incident threatening to alienate Sunni Arabs, who have played a key role in the steep decline in violence over the past year by join-

ing forces with the Americans against al-Qaida in Iraq. Beiji, an oil hub 155 miles north of Baghdad, lies in a largely Sunni Arab area.

The strike came as the U.S. was trying to ease Iraqi anger over the shooting of a copy of the Quran by an American sniper, who used Islam's holy book for target practice.

In Afghanistan on Thursday, a NATO soldier and two demonstrators were killed at a violent protest over the Quran shooting.

## Immigrants fleeing South Africa after deadly attacks

**JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)**—Hundreds of immigrants boarded crowded buses for Mozambique and other African nations Thursday, passing bags and even babies through the windows in a rush to flee violent attacks against outsiders that have left 42 dead.

But many other immigrants—drawn to South Africa by hopes of a better life—say they have nowhere to run despite violence that has forced more than 25,000 from their homes.

South Africa's poorest have increasingly come to blame migrants from Zimbabwe and other African countries for domestic problems such as crime and unemployment. The frustra-

tion boiled over two weeks ago, when mobs tore through the slums of Johannesburg, leaving foreign victims burned alive, stabbed, shot or beaten to death.

In a bid to tamp down the violence, South Africa put soldiers on the streets of its commercial hub Thursday—the first time since the end of apartheid that the military has been deployed in Johannesburg.

The milestone has dredged up unhappy memories of South Africa's racist legacy. Speaking to reporters Thursday, police minister Charles Nqakula recalled the era when the white government used troops to quell anti-apartheid protests.

## UN council supports Lebanon deal

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—The U.N. Security Council is giving strong backing to the deal to end Lebanon's 18-month political crisis.

But the council dropped a specific reference to a 2004 resolution demanding the disarmament of the Hezbollah militia, which is widely seen as the victor in the agreement reached Wednesday in Qatar's capital, Doha.

A statement approved Thurs-

day by the 15 council members calls for full implementation of the Doha agreement, in conformity with an agreement that ended Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war "and all relevant Security Council resolutions..."

While the U.S. insisted that the relevant measures include the 2004 resolution demanding the disarmament of all militias in Lebanon, other council members disagreed.

## Suicide bomber attacks Gaza crossing

**GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)**—A Palestinian detonated a powerful truck bomb at the main pedestrian crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip on Thursday, causing extensive damage that dealt a serious blow to Gazans' hopes of opening up their sealed-off territory.

Although the bomber killed only himself, the magnitude of the explosion—which shook buildings for miles—raised fears that Palestinians are adopting tactics used by al-Qaida, Hezbollah and other extremist groups.

The attack at the Erez crossing also reinforced skepticism about Egyptian-led efforts to bring a truce to the violence-ravaged area and hurt international efforts to ease the Israeli-led blockade of Gaza, imposed after Hamas militants seized control of the coastal territory almost a year ago.

Later, at the Karni cargo crossing some 5 miles away, a protest against the blockade turned violent, with Palestinians accusing Israeli troops of firing into the crowd of thousands, killing a 22-year-old man and wounding 16 other people.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### UN chief tours still-flooded Myanmar delta

**KYONDAH, Myanmar (AP)**—U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon flew over Myanmar's flooded Irrawaddy delta on Thursday, where the ravages of a cyclone stretched as far as the eye could see: Villages were empty of life, flattened huts dissolved into vast areas of water and people perched on rooftops. Nearly three weeks after the storm, life was grim even at a refugee camp showcased by Myanmar's junta during the carefully scripted tour. "I'm very upset by what I've seen," Ban said, visibly shaken by the firsthand look at the devastation, even though the areas to which he was taken were far from those worst-hit by Cyclone Nargis. The May 2-3 cyclone claimed more than 78,000 lives, according to government figures, and left more than 56,000 missing.

#### 1 NATO soldier killed in Quran protest

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—Gunfire broke out Thursday at a protest in western Afghanistan against a U.S. sniper in Iraq who used a Quran for target practice. Officials said a NATO soldier and two civilians were killed. Police opened fire on demon-

strators who threw rocks and set tents on fire near a military airfield in western Ghor province, said NATO spokesman Maj. Martin O'Donnell. Two civilians were slain and seven others were wounded, he said. Gunfire also killed one NATO soldier from Lithuania and wounded another, but it was not clear who shot at them, O'Donnell said. The Lithuanian Defense Ministry identified the dead soldier as Sgt. Arunas Jarmalavicius, 35, the first Lithuanian soldier killed in Afghanistan.

#### Pakistan may ask UN to probe Bhutto assassination

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)**—Pakistan's government said Thursday it is ready to ask the U.N. to investigate the assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, a move opposed by President Pervez Musharraf. Law Minister Farooq Naek said officials had finalized a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon asking for the probe. Naek said he and Pakistan's foreign minister would carry the letter to U.N. headquarters in New York "very soon," once Ban gives them an appointment. Musharraf and the United States have opposed a U.N. investigation as unnecessary. Washington is urging

Pakistan's new government to focus on tackling Islamic militancy and mounting economic woes. But the two ministers said the world body should probe the killing given the alleged involvement of international terrorists and the political sensitivity of the case in Pakistan.

#### Sherpa makes record 18th Everest summit

**KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)**—A veteran Sherpa guide scaled Mount Everest for a record 18th time Thursday, Nepalese mountaineering officials said. Appa, who like most Sherpas goes by only one name, reached the 29,035-foot summit along with several of his team members early Thursday, said Ang Tshering of the Nepal Mountaineering Association. Appa, 47, beat his own record set last spring for the most climbs of the world's highest mountain. His closest rival is fellow Sherpa guide Chhewang Nima, 42, who has summited 15 times. Like most Sherpas, Appa grew up in the foothills of Everest, and began carrying equipment and supplies for trekkers and mountaineers at an early age. He made his first summit of Everest in 1989 and has been climbing almost every year since.



# Maharlika – PinoyNews

## Consulate General to issue machine readable passports

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan is informing all Filipinos in the CNMI that it will be accepting and processing applications for the new Machine Readable Passports by June this year.

The MRP is a project of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs in compliance with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization for document security and ease of travel.

A Machine Readable Passport is a passport where the personal details of the applicant is printed in such a way that it can be read by the naked eye; at the same time it contains a "machine readable zone" containing the personal data of the passport holder that can be read by a machine or computer.

The processing of travelers at ports of entry and exit is faster because the data in the MRP can be read by a machine and stored automatically in the database of immigration offices. This means greater convenience and security for the traveler.

Only the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila prints the MRPs. Applicants received by the Consulate General will be sent to the DFA via diplomatic pouch. In view of the transit time, it will now take six weeks

## 'Cosme' toll: 44 dead, P3.7B in property damage

By JOEL GUINTO  
INQUIRER.NET

**MANILA, Philippines**—The death toll from tropical storm "Cosme" (international code-name: Halong) rose to 44, while the estimated cost of damage to agriculture and infrastructure hit P3.7 billion, the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said Thursday.

The storm swept through northern Luzon over the weekend and brought monsoon rains to central and southern Luzon and the western Visayas with 100-kilometer per hour winds.

Thirty-one of the 44 fatalities, mostly due to being hit by flying debris and drowning, were in hard-hit Pangasinan province, where the storm first made land-fall last Saturday, the NDCC said in a report.

The storm also left 24 people injured in the Ilocos Region, the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), and Central Luzon, mostly due to debris hurled into the air by strong winds, the NDCC said.

## NMI photo studios urged to obtain accreditation for passport pictures

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General will soon be accepting applications for machine-readable passports for Filipino nationals once proprietors of photo studios on Saipan that provide services to applicants of Philippine passports are accredited as MRP-compliant.

The Philippine Consulate General says the photo standards for MRPs are very specific and the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila will not be able to process applications with standard pictures. To ensure that the photos submitted by applicants are compliant, the Philippine Consulate General recommends that applicants have their photos taken by accredited studios.

MRP-compliant photos must follow these guidelines: a royal blue background, 4.5 cm x 3.5 cm in size, and pose shots of applicant is 70

to 80 percent of the photograph and no tilting of the head if a straight frontal shot.

In view of the exacting standards set for the new photo requirements for Philippine MRPs, Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DL Maximo is calling on all proprietors of photo studios in the CNMI to send their representatives to attend a seminar that will be held at the Filipino Workers Resource Center at the first floor of the Marianas Business Plaza on May 27 at 6pm. Information kits on the new photo requirements will be distributed to the participants during the seminar.

Participating studios will then be required to submit samples that comply with the new requirements.

According to Maximo, "Studios whose samples have been found compliant will be given Certificates of Accreditation and included on the list of accredited studios posted at the bulletin boards of the Philippine Consulate."

for a passport to be released to the applicants from the time the application is accepted.

All applicants, whether for the renewal of a passport or those applying for the first time, must appear personally at the Philippine Consulate General to affix his or her thumb mark and sign the application form. Applicants by mail cannot be accepted.

The new MRPs are issued

by the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs at no additional cost to the applicants. Maroon-colored MRPs issued in the CNMI will cost US\$50, the same as the green-colored passports.

Current holders of valid Philippine passports (green passports that have not expired) need not worry as the green passport will still be

honored as a bonafide travel document issued by the Government of the Philippines until it expires, even after the roll out of the new Machine Readable Passports.

For further information, call the Philippine Consulate General at 234-1848 or visit its office at the fifth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, Saipan. (PR)



**STATE VISIT**  
Visiting Thai Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej, bows his head as the national anthem is played during a welcoming ceremony with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Thursday May 22, 2008, at Malacañang Palace grounds in Manila, Philippines. Samak and Arroyo are expected to discuss the current food and oil crises in the region.  
AP

## LABOR FRONT

### Hiring preference for alien workers

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**Q: Does Labor give hiring preference to alien workers who are currently in the CNMI?**

**A:** The new Employment Rules and Regulations state that an employer seeking an exemption from the moratorium for a replacement worker shall first contact Labor's Employment Services so that eligible foreign national workers already in the Commonwealth can be placed.

A foreign national worker who is under a Temporary Work Authorization issued by a Labor hearing officer or an alien worker who transfers to an employer through a Labor administrative order issued by a hearing officer is not a replacement. The Regulations state that the employment of TWA workers and workers holding transfers is not limited by the moratorium.

**Q: When can an employer hire a replacement alien worker?**

**A:** The Regulations state that the replacement worker may be hired only when a guest worker has actually departed the CNMI or the employer has reported to Labor that the employee is missing and cannot be located. A replacement worker may be hired only for a position for the same employer and within the same job classification as the departed worker.

**Q: When can a claim of exemption for replacement may be denied?**

**A:** A claim of exemption for replacement may be rejected if the guest worker being replaced departed the CNMI after filing a complaint and being awarded relief or if the Labor director finds any violation of Commonwealth law in connection with the employment of the foreign national worker being replaced.

Labor says the entry permit is an important control that assists in maintaining the proper status of foreign workers within the CNMI. Failure to return an entry permit or file the required notice for a departing worker is grounds for denial of a replacement.

*Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the CIC Centre on Beach Road, Garapan.*

## Peso weakens to 43.45 vs dollar

By DORIS DUMLAO  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—The peso weakened further to close at a fresh six-month low of 43.45 against the US dollar on Thursday as record-high oil prices dampened global appetite for equities and clouded domestic growth prospects.

With the peso no longer a mitigating factor to

EXCHANGE RATES	
DOLLAR	PESO
\$1.00	= P43.45

sharply rising consumer prices, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has vowed to address the dilemma caused by slowing growth and rising inflationary pressures by prioritizing price stability.

"It is difficult for monetary policy to be accommodative even though the economy is slowing – price stability should be the main focus of monetary

policy," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said in a briefing on the impact of global shocks on the macro-economy.

Even though wage increases have been kept within its expectations, the inflation-targeting BSP thus signalled that monetary tightening may be needed to manage inflationary expectations and prevent price pressures from spreading.

The peso opened at its intra-day peak of 43.30 on Thursday and closed near the low of 43.48 to the US dollar. Volume at the Philippine Dealing System amounted to \$605 million.

The local currency lost 21 centavos from Wednesday's finish of 43.24 to the US dollar. It has now depreciated by nearly 5.0 percent since the start of this year.



## Thai PM promises rice for struggling Philippines

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—The leader of the world's largest rice exporter, Thailand, has promised to provide supplies to the Philippines as it struggles to plug a domestic shortfall in the staple grain, a Philippine official said.

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo thanked Thai Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej during talks at the presidential palace on Thursday, the first day of the Thai leader's two-day visit to the Philippines, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said.

"The prime minister said he is extending the hand of friendship. Should the Philippines need rice, Thailand is willing to supply," Yap told reporters.

Samak and Yap toured a Manila wet market early Friday, surprising vendors and resi-

dents at the sight of a Thai prime minister—a celebrity chef back home—picking through tomatoes, onions and mushrooms. He ended up buying groceries—including tiger prawns and pork—for lunch he's cooking for the Thai Embassy staff.

Playing down any fears of a food crisis, Samak told reporters, "there is no shortage in Asia."

"It seems this country has enough rice. Don't worry," he said in brief remarks.

He planned to hold separate talks Friday with officials from the International Rice Research Institute, which has been developing rice varieties to increase production and withstand drought or floods to help farmers across the world.

Rice prices in Asia have tripled this year, while U.S. rice futures have fallen by about 20 percent over the last month. Prices have been lifted by growing demand, rising fuel prices, cuts in agriculture funding, increas-

ing use of food crops for biofuels, financial speculation and bad weather.

Samak said Thailand would supply rice to the Philippines "in the spirit of ASEAN brotherhood."

Thailand and the Philippines—the world's top rice importer—are partners in ASEAN, or Association of Southeast Asian Nations, along with Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Vietnam.

The Philippines says it has contracted for 1.7 million tons of rice to fill a 10 percent domestic production gap this year, and wants to buy an additional 675,000 tons as buffer stocks for the last quarter of the year.

The government has secured contracts with Vietnam for up to 1.5 million tons and Japan for 200,000 tons.

Yap said no specific volumes and amounts were discussed during Arroyo's talks with Samak.

## Ex-youth leader seized by military

**MANILA, Philippines**—A former youth leader, who went missing last week in Metro Manila, has been found detained in a military camp in Isabela on murder charges, a militant human rights group reported Thursday.

Randy Felix Malayao, 39, was serving as a peace consultant of the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) when he disappeared on the night of May 15, Karapatan claimed, citing reports of his family. He was surfaced five days later at Camp Melchor dela Cruz in Gamu, Isabela, bearing signs of torture, it alleged.

The Inquirer learned that Malayao had been placed in the custody of the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in

Iligan, Isabela.

The group said Malayao could have been detained for being listed as a coaccused in the 2003 killing of Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, a former colonel who had been tagged as among the top henchmen of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the 1970s.

The New People's Army (NPA), military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), claimed to have meted the death sentence to Aguinaldo in 2001. The CPP-NPA, which leads the NDF, has been waging an armed insurgency against the government since 1968.

Malayao, a former youth leader, was elected vice president for the Visayas of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines.

## RP lawmakers ask court to stop oil search in Spratlys

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Left-wing legislators asked the Philippine Supreme Court on Wednesday to order an immediate halt to a scientific study by the state oil companies of China, Vietnam and the Philippines in the disputed Spratly islands.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and three of her Cabinet members committed "treachery of the highest order" and a "betrayal of paramount proportions" by allowing the three-year seismic study, the six legislators said in a joint petition.

Given the extent of the study, which allegedly encompasses disputed Spratly waters in the South China Sea and Philippine territorial waters, "the state compromises and bargains away its national economy and patrimony, national sovereignty," they said.

"It's a sellout," said Rep. Satur Ocampo, one of the petitioners.

He said the agreement to undertake the study could weaken the Philippines' claim to the Spratlys archipelago, which includes rich fishing grounds, straddles the world's busiest shipping lanes and is believed to sit atop vast deposits of oil and gas. Aside from China, the Philippines and Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan also claim all or parts of the remote islands.

The petitioners claim the Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking violates the Philippine Constitution, which allows only the Manila government to explore and exploit natural resources within its territory. The government also can undertake explorations with companies that are at least 60 percent owned by Filipinos, they said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the study is constitutional and the government will not back off unless the high tribunal finds it illegal.

"Until such time that it is declared unconstitutional, we have to go by the stipulations of the contract," Ermita told reporters.

The seismic study, part of oil exploration, is being undertaken by Philippine National Oil Co., China National Offshore Oil Corp. and Vietnam Oil and Gas Corp. The three governments have not said whether any sign of oil or gas has been found in the sprawling area. The study is to end next month.

The lawmakers belatedly acted to stop the joint study because it only caught the public's attention in recent months.

Opposition lawmakers claim Arroyo's government agreed to the study in exchange for huge Chinese loans for allegedly overpriced projects that witnesses have told the Senate involved kickbacks to officials.

## RP economy likely slowed in Q1

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Soaring commodity prices have likely slowed the Philippine economy in the first quarter and may prompt the government to cut its full-year growth forecast, the economic chief said Friday.

Economic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos said he expects first-quarter gross domestic product to have risen between 5.2 percent and 6.2 percent compared with a year ago, slowing from a 7.4 percent expansion in the fourth quarter of last year.

As a result, he said the government "may have to cut" its 2008 growth target of 6.3 percent to 7 percent.

"Economic growth was likely hurt by high oil and food prices. However, good agriculture numbers may have provided the economy support," Santos said.

The first-quarter economic data will be released May 29.

Higher food prices drove April inflation to its highest level in three years. The consumer price index rose 8.3 percent from the same month last year.



# Prepaid Sale at the Auto Show

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# Maharlika – PinoyStyle

## KC signs GMA Films contract for second movie with Richard

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—A few weeks after GMA-7 talent Richard Gutierrez inked a one-movie deal with ABS-CBN's Star Cinema, his co-star in this dream project, KC Concepcion, also signed a single-picture contract with GMA Films for the tandem's second pairing.

KC signed the contract Thursday at the executive board room of the GMA Network headquarters in Quezon City. Present during the signing were Richard, GMA Network executive vice president and chief operating officer Gilberto Duavit Jr., GMA Films president Annette Gozon-Abrogar, GMA-7 VP for program management Joey Abacan, GMA Films project development director Noel Ferrer, film director Jose Javier Reyes and KC's managers Sandra Chavez and Shirley Kuan. Richard's mother and talent manager,



Richard Gutierrez and KC Concepcion.

Annabelle Rama, arrived after the contract was signed.

Rama said she prayed for the tandem. "It's a miracle. I prayed

for one movie. Now they have two," she said.

Abrogar, on the other hand, said that even though observ-

ers said the idea "was crazy and wild, we persevered...For as long as you negotiate in good faith, nothing's impossible."

This pair of Richard-KC projects is the product of a first-ever agreement between the staunchest television network rivals, ABS-CBN and GMA-7. The deal was borne out of the two networks' appreciation that the combination of their lead young artists will yield monumental box office returns.

The Star Cinema movie will be released later this year while the GMA Films production will hit theaters on Valentine's Day next year.

KC and Richard admitted

they fought hard for this to happen.

"That the two networks sat down and agreed on this deal is an achievement in itself," Richard said.

KC agreed: "This is hopefully the start of more projects that will unite the industry."

Reyes will direct the pair's Kapuso outing while Joyce Bernal will handle the Kapamilya movie.

"Funny thing is, Joyce is now identified with GMA-7, while I with ABS," said Direk Joey.

## Why Jom wasn't in Boracay with Pipay

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Jomari Yllana laughs off rumors about splitting up with Pops Fernandez.

"All is well between us," he says. "I don't know where that's coming from."

Some people apparently jumped to that conclusion, just because Pipay was spotted in Boracay having fun with her girlfriends. Jom says, "I was supposed to be with Pipay at that 10th anniversary party of Boracay Regency. I was at the grand opening of Rapide La Union, so I couldn't go with her."

Pipay's not the type to do any mischief, actually.

Jom is cool about her and Martin being on speaking terms again. "I respect them both as parents to their kids," he says. "I'm glad they're okay now. That's very good for Robin and Ram." He doesn't mind, either, that Pipay celebrated Mother's Day with Martin and the boys.

Jom tells me, "I gave her a box of cookies on that special day. We have our own bonding time with her kids." Bonding never turns into bondage for Pipay and Jom. They are secure about their relationship — in each other's presence, and absence as well.

### All clear?

Sam Milby is relieved that his "war" with Tita Lolit is over. But is another war brewing between him and Anne Curtis' mother — who has said on TV that she likes Luis Manzano better than Sam for her daughter?

"I've cleared things with her mom," Sam says. "It did not affect my relationship with Anne." Hmm...is it a REALationship already? Real or Not Real?

### From Star Magic

I've said my piece about the Kristine Hermosa-Direk Andoy controversy on 'The Buzz' and www.pep.ph. To elaborate in this space would be self-serving.

Besides, there are other scoops waiting to be unearthed.

Here's Star Magic's official statement, sent by Rikka Dylim, on the Kristine Hermosa-Direk Andoy Ranay brouhaha. May this finally put the issue to rest:

"Kristine and Andoy became good friends in the course of the taping for 'Prinsesa ng Banyera.' Where did the trouble start? From a rape scene that Tin felt she did not have to do thrice for the part. There had been 'attempted rapes' made on her character in the show and one more would seem ridiculous.

"She went through the proper channels, discussing her insights/feelings with Star Magic as to why she did not want to do the rape scene. Star Magic intervened and spoke to Production about the said rape scene and was assured that such a scene would not be shot anymore (sic).

"However, after getting the assurance, Production still wanted to proceed with the scene and tried to use their 'friendship' with Tin to get away with it. She refused, and that was where all the trouble began. Tin even went to the extent of apologizing because she had no intentions of making things difficult for Production.

"It was [previously agreed] that the soap was to be extended till July and there would not have been any problem with Tin. Thing is, when negative stories came out about Tin, she felt betrayed and did not want to work on a new season for the soap. She was really hurt, and what was even more painful was that Tin has been working hard on this soap and wanted to prove her worth as an actress.

"When she heard that Mr. M wanted to ban Andoy from working with other Star Magic artists, Tin said that it [was uncalled for] because "ayaw niya madamay ang ibang tao na hindi naman talaga involved." Star Magic and Andoy Ranay have talked and all is well with them."

So there we have it: Abracadabra! Presenting a meek and mild Kristine Hermosa.

## PERSONAL FINANCE Learning to cope with a single income

*Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.*

**Question: I am a mom with two kids, ages three and one. Every time I go to work in the morning, I feel a pang of guilt leaving them with their babysitter. My husband and I have decided that I give up my job and stay home to take care of the kids. I'm happy about that, but also nervous about making ends meet in the long run. I'm due to resign at the end of the year. Can you please give me advice on how we can live well on my husband's income alone? — Annie**

**Answer:** It's good that you have discussed this with your husband and you have both come to a common decision. However, this comes with a huge sacrifice. You'll be having a huge pay cut and you will become fully dependent on your husband.

Given that the cost of living goes up over the years (soon, your kids will go to school too), you may want to consider working part-time from home for now, instead of giving up work altogether. You can pursue a hobby and make a business out of it from the comfort of your home. Not only will you get to spend more time with your children, you will

also contribute in adding to the family coffers.

In time, if the demands of caring for your family increase, you can reconsider your working hours, and maybe by then you will be ready to become a full-time wife and mother. Of course, this is just one option. If you are all set to give up work at this time, that is fine too.

Since you still have about half a year left until you retire, we encourage you to do two things:

1. Practice living on one income for the next seven months. This will help you assess your financial resources and adjust your lifestyles. Live as if you are already supported only by your husband's income. No doubt this will be difficult, but practicing now will help you see how you can live simply. Start by cutting down on eating out. Bring baon to work. Start taking public transportation if you have been used to taking the car. Cut down on splurges, such as weekly home massages and trips to your favorite coffee shop. There are many ways to simplify lifestyle.

2. Save your income for the next seven months. Since you will be living on your husband's income, put your income away as an emergency fund that can support you in times of crisis (e.g., illness, job loss, death). You will need this fund to dip into in emergency cases so you won't have to borrow money and pay for the cost of borrowing.

This fund may be placed in investment products that may

potentially earn more interest, such as high-interest savings deposits, time deposits, bond funds or equities funds (from mutual funds or unit investment trust funds). Putting your money in such instruments will give you more interest than a regular savings account.

### Once you have resigned from work:

1. Watch your costs. Don't stop paying close attention to your cost of living when you finally resign, even if you have already practiced for seven months. Develop an eagle eye for more ways to cut corners. For instance, instead of having two yayas, maybe you'll only need one now since you'll be at home.

2. Budget. Make it a regular habit to write down expenses and summarize these at the end of the month. See if you have lived successfully on your husband's income. If not, adjust again and cut down on some more expenses.

3. Shop wisely. Find out where you can get groceries and other necessities at lower prices that are reasonably accessible to you and patronize that store. When buying furniture and home items, consider going to secondhand shops. If you are a regular shopper of a store chain with a rewards program, rack up points to be exchanged for rewards. Maximize your credit card's rewards program but buy only what you need.

4. Don't neglect insurance. In

the course of saving and living simply, you may be tempted to lay aside availing of insurance coverage. Insurance preserves income in untoward incidents like sickness and death. Get life insurance for you and your husband and health insurance for everyone.

5. Save for your retirement. Retirement may be the farthest thing in your minds right now, but saving for your retirement this early will let you reap the benefits in the long run. Compound interest over the years will let your fund earn more. Look into getting a pension plan, or do a self-styled investment plan in consultation with a financial advisor who can help you determine how much you need for retirement, and how much you need to save from now on.

Living on one income will be challenging, but if you and your husband are committed to make it work, it will work. We wish you the best.

*INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal\_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.*



# Maharlika – Opinyon

## EDITORIAL

### A human revolver

*Editor's Note: This was first published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on May 20, 2008.*

The Roman historian Tacitus quoted Calgacus of the Caledonians exhorting his tribe to resist foreign, that is, Roman, conquest: "Robbery, butchery, rapine, they call empire by euphemisms, and when they produce a wasteland, they call it peace." The Americans named the Colt model 1873 revolver "the peacemaker" in true Roman fashion, because it was so instrumental in "pacifying" Native Americans.

We must ask, in the wake of the appointment of Hermogenes Esperon as presidential adviser on the peace process, whether peace is defined by the administration as the quiet of the grave, in the same it defines unity as the same as surrender? Pacification is not the same as making peace. Conquest may result in some sort of peace, but it's a victor's peace, and carries with it the risk of merely accomplishing a lull in a deepening struggle.

Of Esperon it can be fairly said that he was never a ferocious commander, and that until his reputation was tarnished by allegations of participating in the subversion of the electoral process, he didn't have a reputation for being power-hungry, greedy or careless with the lives of his men. But all his achievements to date have been as a commander, at the front and from behind his desk at HQ. And his objectives have remained consistent: to defeat the enemy, to pacify territory and maintain control over it for the government.

His credentials as a fighter against Moro rebels and as the organizer of the liquidation of the Communist insurgency are not, then, the bona fides of a peacemaker. His organizational gifts, such as they are, are suitable to a commander of front-line fighters but not to the supervision of the peace process—because peace negotiators cannot be marshaled in the manner of battalion commanders.

It is not Esperon's military background per se that makes him unfit to hold the position to which he's been appointed; it is his particular background, the specific circumstances surrounding his military career, that renders him unworthy of this sensitive Cabinet portfolio.

There have always been two factions in the administration, one pushing for a "final solution" to the NPA insurgency and a hard-line stance concerning Moro rebels; the other pushing for a more enlightened, non-conditional approach to foster goodwill. But because the hawks can rely not just on the Department of National Defense, but also the National Security Adviser as their institutional bulwark, the doves have always been hard-pressed to mobilize support.

The hard-liners having been on the ascendant, politically, since the President's crisis of legitimacy started in 2005, and with many promoters of peace having left the government since, we can only assume that Esperon's appointment represents a victory for the hawks. Esperon can now add his voice to the Cabinet faction insisting that whatever the President's political intentions come 2010, a primary objective of her administration must be the elimination of the Left and a sustained hard-line stance concerning the Moros, until then.

## Mad

I saw Raul Gonzalez on TV fuming. He was mad about it, he said, and wouldn't mind seeing the perpetrators burn in hell or in the electric chair, or words to that effect. He was referring to the authors of the bank robbery in Laguna, which left a trail of bodies in its wake, the product not of a bloody shootout but of a cold-blooded execution. All the victims were shot in the head.

It is something to fly into a rage about, the way the beheading of 10 hostages by the Abu Sayyaf last year was. That one also stoked government to fury. "We cannot tolerate these barbaric acts," said Army spokesman Ernesto Torres. "The beheadings once again demonstrate the Abu Sayyaf's ruthlessness and strengthens our resolve to neutralize them," said Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

True enough, some crimes cry out to the heavens for retribution, and as I said last Tuesday this one does. It's not just the number of the dead, though the mathematics of death matters grievously as well, at least to the bereaved. It's the way they died too. The only thing more horrific than madness is perverted logic. You can understand how in the heat of battle, a crazed combatant might commit an atrocity, beheading enemies or gunning down men, women and children in villages. You cannot understand how in the quiet of peace, or in the womb of a bank or jungle, a perfectly sober person would deliberately wreak wholesale carnage. The first for all its madness retains some reason; the second for all its calculation boggles the mind.

But if that is so, how can you seethe with rage over the systematic execution of the Laguna bank employees and not burn with greater fury at the methodical execution of political activists and journalists? How can you cry out for unsheathing the sword of vengeance or retribution, whichever comes first or more handily, at the authors of the Laguna massacre and not shout for unleashing the Furies or letting fall the hand of justice, whichever comes last or more forcefully, at the perpetrators of the nationwide slaughter? For while fuming at the

atrocity in Laguna, Gonzalez has been laughing at the obscenity in the country for several years now. While being furious at the cold-blooded execution of the hostages in a bank, Gonzalez has been facetious over the cold-blooded "salvaging" of abductees by cops and soldiers.

You can understand how in the heat of battle, crazed soldiers might commit a savage act, wreaking a massacre upon a village. You cannot understand how in the quiet of peace, or in the tomb of cities and in the dead of day, government can commit a barbaric act, wreaking wholesale slaughter upon some of the country's best and brightest. That's what the journalists and political activists are, the latter often in the flush of youth—they are some of the country's best and brightest. The first for all its senselessness retains some sense; the second for all its justification is unforgivable.

Find the Laguna killers and let them burn in hell? Jovito Palparan is still free and enjoying heaven. He's still committing atrocities while at it—if, these days, of quite another kind.

If you can get mad at what happened to the hostages in Laguna, you have to get madder at what has been happening to the activists and journalists who are hostage to government's policy of keeping "killing fields." As numbers go, compared to the latter, the Laguna massacre looks like a footnote to the annals of horror. The sheer abundance of political activists and journalists killed in this country has so alarmed the world community it has been railing against the "culture of impunity" that has made murder our fastest growing cottage industry.

If you can get mad at the pitilessness with which the bank robbers in Laguna shot their hostages in the head, you have to get madder at the mercilessness with which cops and soldiers seize union officials and strike leaders, often from the embrace of their wives and children, and make them reappear with bullet wounds in their heads. The latter is no less savage and barbaric because the murder was not seen, or because the bodies materialized only

## THERE'S THE RUB

By **CONRADO DE QUIROS**  
*Philippine Daily Inquirer*



later in a state of decomposition. Which is more horrifying, the lack of compunction with which the bank robbers gunned down a bank manager, whose only crime was to be in the right place at the wrong time, or the lack of trepidation with which government agents kidnapped and most probably "salvaged" the son of the one journalist who helped free this country from tyranny, whose only crime was, just like his father, to do the right thing whatever the time?

That brings me to the last thing about why, if you can get mad at the massacre of the employees of a bank in Laguna, you have to get madder at the pogrom of activists and journalists in this country. Which is that the atrocity in Laguna was wreaked by people you expect to commit atrocity, while the obscenity in this country is being wreaked by an entity tasked with maintaining decency, or a reasonable facsimile thereof. The perpetrators of the Laguna massacre are outlaws, they carry with them a sentence to be shot and killed on sight. The perpetrators of the slaughter of activists and journalists are the law, they carry with them a mandate to protect the citizens. Who is the viler criminal, the one who murders cold-bloodedly while existing outside the community and living the life of the hunted, or the one who murders wantonly while holding pride of place in the community and enjoying the pelf and privilege of the hunter?

By all means let's rail at the malevolence that was the Laguna massacre. But to froth in the mouth over it while curling the same mouth into a sneer over a bigger monstrosity, that's not being mad.

That's just being stark raving mad.

## On libel suits

People feign shock when they discover I find time to catch The Buzz on lazy Sunday afternoons. I don't see why a historian cannot enjoy the inanity just as much as others do. My only complaint is that the show isn't the same without Kris Aquino. If today's news is tomorrow's history, I wonder what the historian of the future will make of contemporary show-biz gossip and what it says about us and our times. Last Sunday I was disappointed to see that Piolo Pascual and Sam Milby dropped their winnable libel suit against Lolit Solis in exchange for a public apology and whatever else in an out-of-court settlement.

I followed this story from the beginning: Solis reported that she saw the two actors in a compromising situation and tried to be cute (or brazenly insensitive) by using a particularly vulgar verb to describe what she saw; asked to apologize she refused; brought to court she steadfastly refused to retract or apologize, insisting that what she wrote was the truth. I don't know why media did not pick up the story because it was a reminder to all of us that Truth is not always a shield against libel. Malice and an attack on a person's reputation is the basis of libel. In this case we have actors who make a living on their looks and their image. All the movies, advertisements and appearances are based on public perception of what they are or what they represent. When this is challenged or compromised in the press, doesn't that constitute libel? What social or national good was achieved by Solis' article? Nothing. It's a pity the case did not proceed to its conclusion as it would have gone down in the law books as a precedent from which we all learn.

Contemporary history has a number of engaging libel cases like those filed by the First Gentleman and the resulting countersuits that are ongoing so we can't

comment on them. The late Louie Beltran once wrote that at the height of a coup Cory Aquino hid under a bed, which was definitely not what the public expected of the President of the Republic of the Philippines and the commander in chief of our Armed Forces. Mrs. Aquino later brought reporters to her bedroom, lifted the bedcovers and showed the public that she couldn't fit under the bed even if she were a midget. Beltran said his words were not to be taken literally, that he merely used a figure of speech. To cut a long story short, the case was settled in Mrs. Aquino's favor but by then Mr. Beltran had passed away. F. Sionil Jose sued and won a case against someone who labeled him an agent of the US Central Intelligence Agency.

Further back in history we have US colonial official Dean Worcester winning a libel case against El Renacimiento for the editorial Aves de Rapina (Birds of Prey) that really alluded to and libeled him. Teodoro M. Kalaw, the editor, and the publisher Martin Ocampo are remembered in the history books, but poor Fidel Reyes, author of the offending article, is almost forgotten.

Outside the legal angle, libel suits can be a fruitful subject for historical research because they reflect much about certain personalities and their times. If we push further on into the Spanish period we will not find libel suits in our courts because there was a more direct way of settling this or demanding an apology—the offending or offensive writer was challenged to a duel. The landmark case here is that of Antonio Luna vs. Mir Deas. I have yet to read the exchange but Jose Alejandrino in his memoirs "La Senda del Sacrificio" (The Price of Freedom) said that in 1889 an article appeared in El pueblo Soberano attacking the book "Impresiones" that was written by Luna under his pseudonym Taga-ilog. The nasty review was written and signed by Mir Deas, editor of El Pueblo soberano.

## LOOKING BACK

By **AMBETH OCAMPO**  
*Philippine Daily Inquirer*



Comments are welcome at [aocampo@ateneo.edu](mailto:aocampo@ateneo.edu).

When Mir Deas started writing against Filipinos in general, expatriate Filipinos who knew him would push him aside when they came across him in the street, or give him a knowing and menacing look. None of that seemed to work so Antonio Luna traveled from Madrid to Barcelona to challenge Mir Deas to a duel. Luna even referred to him as Mier Das which is the vulgar plural Spanish term for excrement. [And I warn people who unknowingly use the phrase "Maglamierda tayo" La mierda or lamierda is a Philipinism to mean "Let's go out" when it literally means "Let's take a sh...t."]

Luna went in search of Mir Deas in the streets of Barcelona and when Alejandrino caught Luna with the angry facial contortions that gained him the nickname "Kaffe" he asked, "What are you doing here, Antonio?" Luna replied, "I'm looking for Mierdas." Alejandrino asked, "How do you expect to find him when you do not know him?" Luna's scary reply was, "Well, I'm looking for anyone who looks like Mierdas to mangle down!" When Luna finally caught his prey writing in a café, he walked straight up to Mierdas, spat in his face, threw his calling card at the surprised writer, and left. This was a public call for satisfaction through a duel. Mir Deas was not man enough to take up the challenge and was thus publicly humiliated.

This story shows just how far we have come in settling libel. We can only wonder which method is more effective—the courts or the public and sometimes humiliating demand for an apology or restitution.



# Maharlika – Samu't Sari



## MARIANAS MARCH AGAINST CANCER

Pacific Islands Club staff wave during the 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer at Hopwood Junior High School track and field in Chalan Piao.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Tan Holdings Corporation staff and personnel cheer during the 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer at Hopwood Junior High School track and field in Chalan Piao.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



## RECOGNITION DAY

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

2nd grade A honor student Monica Aira Usi, 8, with her mom Babes Baysa and dad Mico Usi during the Green Meadows School Recognition Day yesterday. Monica received the Best in Reading, Best in Spelling, Perfect attendance awards and she is also a Mathcourt winner. Also in photo are Green Meadows School president Milagros A. Merjilla, vice president Saturnino Songcuan and principal Marilyn T. Divino.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

K4 student Jamimah D. Borromeo with her mom Noemi during the Green Meadows School Recognition Day yesterday. Jamimah received an award for her outstanding behavior and she is also a Primary Grade Forensic Competition winner. Also in photo are Green Meadows School president Milagros A. Merjilla, vice president Saturnino Songcuan and principal Marilyn T. Divino.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

K4 student Natalie J. Hirshbein with her mom Glesie during the Green Meadows School Recognition Day yesterday. Natalie received an award for her outstanding behavior and she is also a Primary Grade Forensic Competition winner. Also in photo are Green Meadows School president Milagros A. Merjilla, vice president Saturnino Songcuan and principal Marilyn T. Divino.



## IN APPRECIATION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FMI president Marites Castillo shows off the Certificate of Appreciation presented her by the Philippine Consulate General during the "Gabi ng Pasasalamat" at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.



## CLEANUP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Friends of the Mariana Islands pose during their Lau-Lau Beach cleanup on May 18, 2008.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Pacific Islands Club's Fat Joy Slim band's lead guitarist Badjhoce, celebrated his birthday recently with close friends.

## AQUA RESORT'S BOOTH

Two staff members of Aqua Resort pose with customers at the Taste of the Marianas event at the American Memorial Park. The event is set every Saturday until May 31.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



## GRAND-FIESTA

Customers gather in front of Saipan Grand Hotel-Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's booth to buy food and drinks during the Taste of the Marianas at the American Memorial Park last Saturday. Thousands of people regularly visit the event held every Saturday for the month of May.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



# Youngstyle

## A birthday celebration without the sweets

By BRIGID SCHULTE  
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — When kids at Archisha Singh's school in Loudoun County, Va., have a birthday, there are no parents sweeping in with towers of cupcakes dripping with frosting. Little River Elementary is one of a growing number of treat-free schools.

Some school districts, concerned about childhood obesity, food allergies and federal nutrition guidelines, have banned cupcakes altogether.

So what's a kid to do?  
Lots, it turns out.

At Little River, birthday kids can donate a book, which Principal Joyce Hardcastle will read to their class. She also hands out birthday certificates, badges and special pencils, and makes sure the kids' names are read on the school's morning news.

Parents can send in stickers, pencils and other non-food favors for the class. Kids who donate jump-ropes and other sports gear get their names on a certificate that's displayed at school. Archisha's second-grade teacher lets birthday kids bring in a CD of their favorite music to play during downtime.

Archisha does miss cupcakes, especially the vanilla ones with sprinkles that her mother made for her preschool class. But the Little River way is fun, too.

"I like both ways," she said.

Hardcastle says it's important that the school is not only teaching, but is modeling healthy choices for kids: "There is life after cupcakes, and I think, for the most part, it is a better life. The truth is, if you eat a treat, then it's gone in two seconds. But a book lasts a lifetime. The sports equipment lasts, and kids can use it day after day after day."

KidsPost asked readers how their schools celebrate birthdays

## A heart-to-heart chat about fat

By SUSAN LEVINE  
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST



It's a simple equation, not scientific as much as common sense: Energy in equals energy burned.

And what it means, when it comes to the human body, is that the number of calories you take in each day should be balanced by the number of calories you use in walking, climbing stairs, playing outside and doing other activities.

But if what goes in is a lot more than what goes out, you will start to gain weight. And since about 1980 in this country, kids have gained lots of weight. (You can

### Carrots vs. Cupcakes

Here is a comparison of the nutritional value of nine raw baby carrots and one homemade, frosted cupcake.

		
40	calories	190
0	calories from fat	80
0	total fat (in grams)	8
0	cholesterol (milligrams)	25
0	sodium (milligrams)	160
9	total carbohydrates (grams)	26

PERCENTAGE OF DAILY RECOMMENDED VALUE		
290%	vitamin A	0%
10%	vitamin C	0%
2%	calcium	4%
0%	iron	2%

SOURCES: Dole Food Company Inc.  
Betty Crocker

now that many have banned cupcakes.

Thomas Jones, 8, of Gainesville, Va., said kids at Buckland Mills donate books to the library and receive a birthday card. Alexa Regnier, 9, of Fairfax, Va., said her teacher gives American Collector postage stamps for special occasions.

"Instead of bringing sweets and junk food, at our school we bring in hats and assorted party favors," wrote Matthew Gherman, 12, of Poolesville, Md.

Others said they bring in craft projects — with the permission of the teacher.

Alicia Levin, a teacher at Washington Hebrew Early Childhood Center in Potomac, Md., used to watch in dismay as sugary birthday treats sent students bouncing off the walls. On a trip to Israel last year, she discovered a new idea: the Birthday Chair.

"We decorate a chair with flowers, and the child gets to sit in it all day. We make a crown

on the team. It's about whether you are healthy.

Unfortunately, fat is really, really unhealthy. Researchers have discovered that fat cells produce hormones and other chemicals that can hurt your body when you're young. The damage gets worse if the weight stays with you into adulthood.

This is scary, yes. But it will help you to understand why it's so important to eat well and be active. You want to live a long time, right? And, just as important, you don't want be limited by painful and serious health problems, right?

P.E. at school, plus the hours kids spend in front of TVs and computers.)

The issue isn't whether boys and girls look good in shorts and swimsuits. And it's not about being the fastest athlete

out of paper flowers, and we sing 'Happy Birthday' to them in Hebrew, English and Spanish," she said. "A lot of parents, instead of sending in treats, have gotten very creative. One sent in little bubbles, another sent in crayons with a little coloring book. ... The kids just love it."

Some schools allow healthy treats such as carrots, celery, fruit cups with vanilla yogurt, and bagels with cream cheese.

Diane Sartori searched online for ideas about what to take to her daughter's kindergarten class at St. Leo the Great Catholic School in Fairfax. She came up with bamboo skewers of fresh fruit that she calls Magic Wands. She cut the fruit with cookie cutters to vary the shapes. Since the kids had been studying the color wheel, she lined up the pieces of watermelon, cantaloupe, pineapple and other fruits to match it.

Another way to celebrate a birthday is by creating a new tradition at school. Maybe your teacher would allow the birthday girl or boy to be line leader for the day or help teach the class.

When kids at the Montessori School of McLean in Virginia have a birthday, they do a Walk Around the Sun, a Montessori tradition. The teacher places a lit candle on the floor. In a circle around the candle she lays strips of paper labeled with the months of the year and the seasons.

When Daniel Meakem celebrated his birthday in February, he held a globe and stood between the winter solstice and spring equinox markings — where his birthday falls. Then he walked around the circle seven times, once for each year of his life, stopping each time on his birth date to tell "something that we achieved or learned during that year of our lives, or something special that we did, like learned how to walk, talk, became a big brother or first time on an airplane," he told KidsPost. "My favorite part is when you get to make a wish and blow out the candle."

## 10 facts about nutrition, fitness and weight

By SUSAN LEVINE  
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

**Bad:** One in four Americans eats fast food at least once a day.

**Bad:** Most cereals made for kids contain more calories, sugar and salt and less fiber and protein than other cereals. Most kids' cereals don't meet national school nutrition standards.

**Good:**

Eat according to the colors of the rainbow. The more colors to your food — such as the reds, oranges, yellows, greens and even blues of fruits and vegetables — the more important nutrients you'll get.

**Good:** Your brain depends on your stomach to signal that it's full, but that message takes 20 minutes to be delivered. So slow down during meals, and you'll be less likely to eat too much.

**Bad:** If you eat even 100 calories more a day than you burn by being active, that "energy gap" could add 10 pounds a year. How much is 100 calories? Half a glazed doughnut.

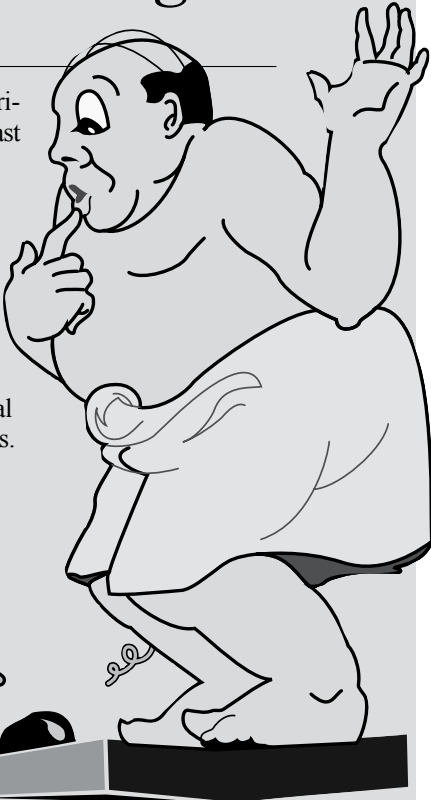
**Good:** Almost every day kids should have at least an hour of what the experts call moderate-intensity physical activity such as walking the dog (not slowly), riding your bike or dancing to your favorite songs.

**Good:** You usually feel happier after playing or exercising because of special chemicals called endorphins that your brain releases while you're moving. Endorphins (pronounced en-DOOR-fins) are a natural mood-booster!

**Really bad:** Fewer than 1 in 25 elementary schools and fewer than 1 in 13 middle schools in this country provide daily P.E. classes for all students. And many elementary schools have cut out recess.

**Do better:** States in New England and out west have the most physically active residents; southern states have the most couch potatoes.

**Bad:** One in three American kids and teens is overweight or heavy enough to be considered obese. (Let's all aim at making ourselves and our friends much healthier!)



### ORGAN BY ORGAN

By SUSAN LEVINE  
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

#### 1. Let's start with your heart.

Being heavy forces the heart to work harder, and fat starts clogging the arteries that carry blood to the rest of the body. Those can be dangerous conditions. These days, some kids in elementary school have a risk of heart problems that doctors used to see mostly in people over 50.

#### 2. Then there's your gallbladder.

It's small, shaped like a pear and located by the liver. It stores a liquid called bile, which helps your body digest fat. But when a person is overweight, a buildup of cholesterol (a fat-like substance) in bile can form hard stones in the gallbladder. They can cause pain, vomiting and infection. Fifteen years

ago, kids rarely had gallstones. That's changed.

#### 3. Now for breathing and your lungs.

Overweight kids are more likely to have sleep apnea, which causes them to stop breathing throughout the night. They're also more likely to have asthma, in which the airways of the lungs get narrower and make it more difficult to breathe.

#### 4. How about your joints?

At a time when they're developing, they shouldn't carry a big load. That can mess up how your bones grow and can require an operation to fix.

So now you get the picture. Organ by organ, you're putting your health in jeopardy by being overweight — no matter how young you are.



# On the case...

By EMILY MESSNER  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Think you're food- and nutrition-smart? Here's a pop quiz:

-- Which is better for you: broiled chicken or fried chicken?

-- True or false: French fries and baked potatoes have the same amount of calories.

-- True or false: Dark-colored veggies contain fewer vitamins.

Answers: Broiled. False (a medium order of fries has more than 400 calories; a baked potato about 150). False (dark green and orange veggies are especially good for you).

So, how'd you do?

If you could use a refresher course, or if you're just starting

## ON THE NET

Tips, challenges and activities:

[www.nick.com/letsjustplay](http://www.nick.com/letsjustplay)

Animation about the "bad fats" in food:

[www.badfatsbrothers.com/BFB.html](http://www.badfatsbrothers.com/BFB.html)

to learn about what is healthy to eat, help is just a click away, with the online Amazing Food Detective game.

Emily, Althea, Enrique and five of their virtual friends are waiting for you at [www.kp.org/amazingfooddetective](http://www.kp.org/amazingfooddetective) with games, quizzes, charts, experiments, recipes and other useful tools.

At the start of the game, players are given eight cases to solve (in English or Spanish). Each case features a kid with a problem. Matthew, for instance, is

tired all the time. Cole pigs out on junk food. Emily eats good food but too much of it. Enrique has weak bones and teeth.

It takes some basic detective work to find the foods or actions to fix each problem. Once you solve the case, there are more activities and games (including a surprisingly tough challenge involving filling milk bottles with the right kind of milk).

There also are activities to print out — good for long car trips this summer.

The information is geared to kids ages 9 to 11 and is being used with lesson plans developed by Scholastic at an estimated 8,000 schools nationwide. Kids who complete the lesson plan receive silver badge stickers.

Some of the earliest online detectives were fifth-graders at Wilson Elementary School in Washington.

On the day KidsPost visited, Montel Adams watched as Devin Daniels racked up a high score in one of the games. "If you get hit by three pounds of junk food, you lose," Devin explained. Devin hadn't been hit with much junk food, so he kept playing.

But you can't play for too long. After 20 minutes, the game shuts off automatically and the Amazing Food Detective tells you to go do something active — 100 pushups, maybe? — and come back in an hour.



The Amazing Food Detective online site was created and launched last fall by Kaiser Permanente, a large organization of hospitals, doctors and other health-care professionals. The detective needs help solving the cases of a lineup of eight kids who have problems related to the foods they do or don't eat.

At another computer, fifth-graders Brianna Brett, Shantisa Brooks and Michon Curtis were busy solving the case of Matthew, who was in the gym doing jumping jacks but very slowly. The solution? A big machine nearby. With each click of the mouse — zap! — the machine made Matthew exercise faster. The girls agreed they probably wouldn't want to be zapped into

doing faster jumping jacks.

The Amazing Food Detective was created and launched last fall by Kaiser Permanente, a large organization of hospitals, doctors and other health-care professionals.

The game definitely guides you along. Older kids who might not find it challenging enough can try playing in Spanish. Buena suerte!



THE WASHINGTON POST

## Kids talk with author Kate DiCamillo

By JESSICA FELDMAN  
and ANJELICA MANTIKAS  
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

We interviewed Newbery Award-winning author Kate DiCamillo in Manhattan recently.

**Question:** How long did it take you to write the book "Great Joy"?

**Answer:** It's weird because the manuscript is four pages long. I must have rewritten it five or six times before it got to my editor, and then I rewrote it with my editor maybe three times. Then once the art comes in for a picture book, then you have to rewrite some of the words. All told, it takes about three years.

**Q:** How did it feel to have your debut novel, "Because of Winn-Dixie," appear on The New York Times' best-seller list?

**A:** Maybe you know this feeling. You get this little idea, passion and you are going to go do it even though everyone says it sounds kind of silly and then you go ahead and do it and then all of sudden the world responds. It is kind of overwhelming and fabulous in that way. You also kind of don't believe it, either.

**Q:** Would you say there is a



part of you in the main characters you write about?

**A:** Yes. Always. The closest I come to appearing in a book

is Sistine Bailey in "The Tiger Rising." And the narrator in the "The Tale of Despereaux" sounds a whole lot like me, a

smart aleck.

**Q:** Were you anxious about the release of "The Tiger Rising" because the plotline is darker than "Because of Winn-Dixie"?

**A:** Yes, very much so, especially since everybody liked "Winn-Dixie" so much, and they wanted the same type of story and "The Tiger Rising" is not the same type of story. There were people who were not very pleased.

**Q:** How did it feel to win the Newbery Medal for "The Tale of Despereaux"?

**A:** That award is fabulous, because people who don't even pay attention to books know what the Newbery award is. When they called to say that, I was just blown away, and I made them repeat it three times before I believed it.

**Q:** Who is your favorite author of all time?

**A:** Can you answer that question? I can't narrow it down to just one, but if you made me choose, I would say E.B. White. Because I loved "Charlotte's Web" so much and I loved the stuff that he wrote for adults, too. But that's if you made me choose, but don't make me choose.

## Healthy Snack Recipe

**Make this healthy snack:  
Carrot & Raisin Salad**

2 large carrots, shredded (be very careful with the shredder, or get an adult to do it)  
1/2 cup raisins  
1/4 chopped walnuts (this is optional; and walnuts can be bought already chopped, so you don't have to use a sharp knife)  
1/4 cup honey mustard dressing

Combine carrots, raisins and walnuts in a bowl. Pour on dressing, then stir or toss until everything is well mixed. For best flavor, wait about 30 minutes before eating.

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## BOOK REVIEW

### "Horse: The Essential Guide for Young Equestrians"

By Rosie Stoddard and Phillip Marshall  
Ages 6-10

By MARYLOU TOUSIGNANT  
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Passionate about ponies?

Learn the history of the horse, its anatomy, the various breeds of horses and ponies — and the difference between the two — and what different markings (patches on a horse's body) are called.

If you're lucky enough to have your own horse, this book will tell you how to care for it, braid its tail, and saddle and ride it.

Pull-outs and little flip books tucked inside provide a surprise with each turn of the page.

Learn the history of the horse, its anatomy, the various breeds of horses and ponies (and the difference between the two) in "Horse: The Essential Guide for Young Equestrians," by Rosie Stoddard and Phillip Marshall.

THE WASHINGTON POST





## A RHYMING RIDDLE!

"What does a man love more than life?  
Hate more than death or mortal strife?  
That which contented men desire,  
The poor have, the rich require;  
The miser spends, the spendthrift saves,  
And all men carry to their graves."

**THE JOLLY JESTER** asks many questions, all of which have the same answer. You have three minutes to solve.  
Answer: "Nothing."

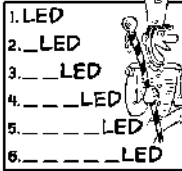
**A JUICY PROBLEM!** Without cutting them, how would you divide six oranges among six boys and still have one left in the box?



Answer: Give one of the boys the box with one orange in it.

**LEAD ON TO WORD POWER!** All these words get longer as they march on, and they all end in LED. The following hints should help:

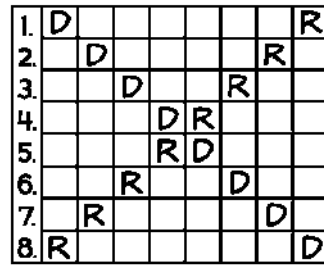
1. Led (in place).
2. What they did to get away.
3. What they did with the hay.
4. What they did with the rope.
5. What they did with the steak.
6. What they did to the prisoner.



Answers: 1. Led, 2. Fled, 3. Baled, 4. Coiled, 5. Grilled, 6. Manacled.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Using the definitions and anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. The letters in the two anagram words for each definition must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

**DEFINITIONS:**

1. Decorative wine bottle.
2. Way to calculate distances.
3. Purebred dogs have them.
4. Windless area of oceans.
5. One who goes to extremes.
6. The three bears love it.
7. Money made from a sale.
8. It runs from coast to coast.

**ANAGRAMS:**

- cant + deer  
trex + doom  
edge + ripe  
muds + lord  
rode + rove  
ergo + drip  
cord + seep  
dial + roar

Answers: 1. Decanter, 2. Odometer, 3. Pedigree, 4. Doldrums, 5. Overdoer, 6. Porridge, 7. Proceeds, 8. Railroad.

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ There is a law on the books in Maine that prohibits having your shoes untied in public. I assume that one is not much enforced.

■ Carpool lanes are becoming more widespread as big cities across the country try to cope with increasing traffic congestion, and people are coming up with more and more creative ways to take advantage of this fact. When one pregnant Arizona woman was pulled over for driving with no passengers in the carpool lane, she claimed that her unborn child qualified as a passenger.

■ There is a museum for almost everything, it seems. In Mount Horeb, Wis., for instance, there is an entire museum dedicated solely to mustard. At last count, it had more than 3,000 jars of the condiment.

■ The company now known as Clorox was originally called the Electro-Alkaline Company.

■ If you're one of those people who suffer from a fear of flying but don't give a second thought to your daily commute, you might want to consider these statistics: Your odds of dying in plane crash are 1 in 15 million; your odds of dying in an automobile accident are 1 in 237.

■ The small Central American country of Costa Rica has more species of mammals and birds than are found in all of the contiguous United States and Canada combined.

■ You might be surprised to learn that Listerine, a company that sells mouthwash, coined the phrase "Always a bridesmaid, never a bride" way back in 1924. Its marketers told consumers that the No. 1 cause for romantic rejection was bad breath.

■ ■ ■

**Thought for the Day:** "Be not too hasty to trust or admire the teachers of morality; they discourse like angels but they live like men." —Samuel Johnson

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## COUNTRIES OF EAST AFRICA

E Y W U A R P N K I G D B Z X  
V B C S Q D O M K I G E C A Y  
W U U O S Q N P N L A J S H F  
E A C R **M O Z A M B I Q U E** A  
Y A D X U O I I W T L V I T U  
S Q E N P N R P U R A N T T A  
A M K R A J D O H F M E I O I  
C Y B Z T G B I S Z O Y R Y B  
X V N U T I U H R Q S P U A M  
O A M E J L R T I W A L A M A  
T K I D K I I G E W B A B M I Z

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Burundi	Ethiopia	Mozambique	Uganda
Comoros	Malawi	Rwanda	Zambia
Djibouti	Mauritius	Somalia	Zimbabwe
Eritrea	Mayotte	Tanzania	

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

**DIFFICULTY: ★★**

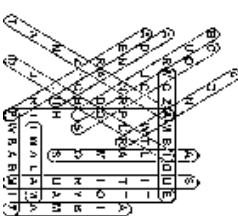
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		x		13
+		+		x	
	+		+		24
÷		÷		+	
	+		x		20
7		5		12	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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## MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



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## GO FIGURE ANSWER

12	5	7
20	4	3
+	÷	÷
24	8	7
x	+	+
13	1	8
	+	5

## Pets suffer when kids shirk responsibility

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** I gave each of my children, a boy and girl ages 8 and 11, a Betta fish to keep in their rooms and care for. Both let their fish die —neither one fed the fish on a regular schedule, almost never cleaned the fishbowls, or did anything else. Now they are both begging for a dog. I tell them "no" every day, because they didn't take care of their fish, so how will they care for a bigger pet? Should I keep telling them no, or will a dog teach them to be responsible? —Tabitha P., Madison, Wis.

**DEAR TABITHA:** I think you should stick to your guns and keep telling them "no." You're absolutely right in pointing out that a pet—no matter how small—is a big responsibility, and that they failed in that responsibility.

Right now, I think that if you get them a dog to care for, train and feed, that once the novelty of a new pet wears off, you'll be the one stuck with caring for, feeding and training the dog. And while dogs are generally wonderful pets and companions, families that are not ready for such an energetic and high-maintenance pet often end up abandoning the dog to a shelter.

That's not to say that your family should never have another pet. Consider testing their responsibility again



in a few months, using a stuffed animal to substitute for a live one. Have them follow a feeding, walking and training schedule for that stuffed animal for at least a month. Give them a book to read on dog training. Talk to a professional trainer about the responsibilities involved. In short, have them think and study the issue of keeping a pet and how much work it will take.

Having a dog (or any pet) as part of the family can be very rewarding, but only if everyone takes responsibility for that pet's care.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to [pawscorner@hotmail.com](mailto:pawscorner@hotmail.com).

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## Thank a teacher with flowers in a painted vase

**B**efore marriage and kids, I was a teacher in Africa. I lived in a village near the equator in the lush rain forest of the northern Ubangi region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many years have passed since that time, so it came as a complete surprise that, while attending a conference in California, I should meet a man I recognized as my former student, Luyada.

As I introduced myself to him in French, my husband, who was standing alongside me, commented, "I'm sure he doesn't know who you are." I translated my husband's comments to Luyada. With a big smile on his face he exclaimed: "Madame, you never forget a teacher. A teacher is a brick who builds who you are today." I couldn't help but feel honored. "I'm a brick!" I repeated over and over to myself.

As the school year winds down, think of the individuals who have been bricks in your child's life. Show your appreciation with a few spring flowers arranged in a personalized vase crafted from a recycled mayonnaise or pasta-sauce jar. Remove the labels on the jars, scrub them sparkling clean, then grab acrylic paints or non-toxic permanent paint pens, ribbon, wire, beads or anything that catches your attention in your craft box, and you're ready to go!

Join your child in making several beautiful vases in no time flat. When complete, fill with flowers, branches and greens such as hosta leaves and herbs for fragrance from your garden, or purchase a bouquet at your grocery



store or nearby florist. Here are some ideas for transforming plain glass jars into works of art:

■ Compose a jingle or rhyme about the person receiving the bouquet and write it on the jar with paint pens. Tie ribbon around the rim and thread a few

small beads near the ends of the ribbon to dangle on the jar.

■ Use acrylic paints to paint designs or images of your teachers' favorite things.

■ Find a tall, narrow jar such as an olive-oil jar for a sleek and contemporary arrangement. Simply write a thank-you greeting directly on the bottle with paint pens, and then finish it off with copper wire twisted around the neck of the bottle several times. Arrange a curly willow branch and two or three flowers in the modern vase.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit [www.donnasday.com](http://www.donnasday.com) to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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## Life &amp; Style

## How David Cook won 'American Idol'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The duel between Davids brought an estimated 31.7 million viewers to the Fox finale of "American Idol," a million more viewers that last year's showdown between Jordin Sparks and Blake Lewis, Nielsen Media Research reported Thursday.

That preliminary estimate beats last year's audience of 30.7 million. That would be a coup for Fox, which has seen ratings for its franchise slide during the past month. But the final competition between winner David Cook and runner-up David Archuleta proved intriguing in the final days.

Cook's transformation from soul-patched slacker to "American Idol" is complete, and his overwhelming victory probably says as much about his soulful gaze and in-season makeover as it does about his chops as a rocker.

Or maybe it says even more about who's voting these days.

Other than his hair—both on his face and atop his head—not much about the 25-year-old from Blue Springs, Mo., changed since his performance of Bryan Adams' "Everything I Do" during the Hollywood round. Back then, he was a promising "Idol" hopeful, but he didn't have the instant juggernaut feel of 17-year-old crooner David Archuleta.

And yet when Cook was crowned "Idol" on Wednesday night, it was a landslide: Host Ryan Seacrest said he'd won by a margin of 12 million votes out of the record 97.5 million cast by viewers.

"I actually walked into this with no expectations, and I'm walking out of it with no expectations," Cook told reporters backstage after his win. "This show is a springboard, but it's still a crapshoot."

From the outset, the ex-bar-tender provided soaring vocals and just enough outside-the-box



David Cook reacts as Ryan Seacrest announces he is the winner of American Idol during the season finale on Wednesday May 21, 2008, in Los Angeles.

behavior—see his rendition of Chris Cornell's version of Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean"—to keep viewers cooking up votes for Cook every week. Neither Cook nor Archuleta was ever a low vote-getter.

But it was Archuleta who always received the most praise—by both judges and loud fans—right up until Tuesday's final performance, in which judge Simon Cowell declared that Archuleta had scored a "knock-out" over Cook, who sang Collective Soul's "The World I

Know," U2's "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" and "Dream Big."

Or maybe being rebellious turned out to be worth the gamble for Cook; it's been suggested that a poor showing with the judges can drum up support from indignant or sympathetic voters.

Criticism may have made Cook's win sweeter for some, but don't call it an upset. Several online outfits predicted he would take home the top prize: a record contract and an SUV.

DialIdol.com, which tracks busy signals on the separate phone lines dedicated to each contestant, correctly projected him the winner Wednesday morning.

So why did the older David best the younger one—the one who couldn't take a step on the "Idol" stage without a collective shriek coming up from every under-13-year-old girl in the audience?

One reason for Cook's winning appeal may be found in a rustling in the show's recent ratings: Viewership for teenagers 12-to-17 for "Idol" was down this season, and the median age of an "Idol" viewer, once in the mid-30s, is now up to 42, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Cook was, after all, the first "rocker" of many to take the crown from a steady stream of pop- and R&B-type singers. Perhaps an older contingent helped push Cook over—way over—the edge. The upper age limit was raised from 24 to 28 in season four; could another increase be on the way?

Another reason could be that Cook was so genuinely humble—and not as quiet or obsequious as Archuleta—throughout the competition, even until the very end. On Wednesday, he told reporters it was an honor to share the stage with the teenage singer from Murray, Utah. Cook said Archuleta had more talent at 17 "than I know what to do with at 25."

Cook was overcome with emotion when he won, bending down toward the stage, his eyes filled with tears when he stood back up. It was the second time in as many nights that the scruffy, grainy-voiced belter had broken down. And a few weeks earlier, when he seemed edgy and distracted, he acknowledged that he had "things going on," perhaps a vague reference to the struggles of his older brother,

Adam, who is battling advanced brain cancer.

On Wednesday night, Cowell saw fit to apologize to Cook for casting him as an also-ran to Archuleta. Just before the winner was announced, Cowell uncharacteristically backtracked on his words of the night before, telling him he was one of the nicest and most genuine contestants the show has seen, and allowing that the competition "wasn't quite so clear cut as we called it."

Beyond his booming voice and continuous acclaim, Archuleta became the focus of controversy when his father, Jeff, was reportedly becoming too heavily involved in his son's rehearsals and asked by the show's producers to back off. News of such an altercation may have

cost the doe-eyed crooner votes from a more knowing adult audience, who perhaps couldn't stomach the thought of rewarding a stage dad.

The only behind-the-scenes story about Cook to surface during the competition concerned his sick older brother, who made the trek to Los Angeles from Indiana to watch his brother perform as a member of the top seven finalists. Such adversity can only make someone on TV seem more human.

Whatever the reasons really were this year, in a competition that can crown a 29-year-old gray-haired Southerner one year and a cheery 17-year-old high-school student from Arizona the next, it's ultimately impossible to tell why America choose its "Idol" the way it does.

## Tila Tequila more guarded in second 'Shot at Love'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tila Tequila blames the media and her paramour's interest in self-promotion for her breakup, and says she was much more guarded during her second "Shot at Love" on MTV.

Tequila told The Associated Press in a recent interview that first-season winner Bobby Banhart never met her parents and the two steadily fell out of touch. She announced their breakup last December.

"I felt like he was starting to get caught up more in the Hollywood world," said the diminutive MySpace and reality star. "Because when we were talking, he was just talking about meeting with agents and getting his own reality show, and meeting with managers. Of course I was happy for him, but at the same time I thought that was really weird. Because if that's what you were doing, then why didn't you mention that while we were shooting? It was just odd to me. Unfortunately it didn't work out."



In this Dec. 31, 2007 file photo, TV Personality Tila Tequila is shown in New York.

Tequila, whose real last name is Nguyen, said that "the media also makes it hard on us. The media says something about him, and he retaliates, and I'm like 'That's not how it was.' And it ends up being, like, unfortunate."

New episodes of "A Shot at Love II with Tila Tequila" are now airing Tuesdays on MTV.

Tequila told AP that at first she didn't want to shoot a second season, "because I was still healing."

"But at the same time, I felt like, well in order to get over stuff, it's kind of good to start socializing again, and not give up. I don't want to close up my heart. It's good to keep it open."

"It took me so long to open up like that. My whole life I've been closed up. It feels good. Even though you get your heart broken, it's good to be in touch with your feelings."

Tequila said she's been bisexual her whole life, and the show features 16 men (often with their shirts off) and 16 women (often in skimpy outfits) competing in stunts to win Tequila's affection.

Tequila said she's more cautious now about their motives.

"This time around, I'm a lot more guarded. I'm a lot more observant of everyone and what they're doing here," she said. "Last season I was a lot more nicer, and this time I'll tell you, 'If you're not here for the right reasons, get the hell out. Stop wasting my time.' Because I really am not putting up with that this season."

## Fox wins TV season on strong 'Idol' finish

NEW YORK (AP)—With a strong finishing kick from "American Idol," Fox captured the distinction of America's most popular television network for the first time since it began operation in 1987.

Fox took that title from CBS. It was the only major broadcast network with more prime-time viewers than the previous season, a distinction helped by its telecast of the Super Bowl. Fox didn't show television's biggest event during the 2006-7 season.

The competition between the two Davids on "American Idol"—winner David Cook and runnerup David Archuleta—was seen by 31.7 million people on Wednesday, according to preliminary Nielsen Media Re-

search estimates. Last year's finale, won by Jordin Sparks, drew 30.7 million viewers.

It was a heartening finish for Fox executives, who admitted to concern when the ratings for TV's most popular show faded in recent weeks.

"It's part of the magic of the show," said Kevin Reilly, Fox entertainment president. "It's like a sporting event in that way, the competition takes on surprise and takes on drama. When it came down to the two Davids, it was a great story that created passion."

Although the finale's audience was the second highest in five years, it was slightly down from last year among 18-to-49-year-old viewers, an indication that the "American Idol" audi-

ence is aging.

Fox averaged 11.1 million viewers in prime-time this season through Tuesday, up 7 percent from last year. The numbers will probably inch up when the "American Idol" finale is figured in.

CBS was second with 10.5 million viewers. It had the sharpest drop among the big broadcast networks, at 16 percent. Analysts said CBS was particularly hurt by the television writers strike, when it relied heavily on reruns that didn't do as strongly in the ratings as the network anticipated.

ABC was third with 10 million viewers (down 7 percent) and NBC finished fourth with 8.9 million (down 9 percent). The troubled CW network was down

19 percent, with 2.6 million viewers, and faces the loss of professional wrestling next season, one of its most popular programs.

The historic victory left Reilly only mildly excited. That's because Fox cultivates a young, hip image and concentrates its business on the 18-to-49-year-old demographic (where it was the top network for the fourth year in a row).

"We want as many people watching Fox as possible," Reilly said. "We have to be mindful, we have to keep our brand rooted in what it has been historically. We're not looking to turn into CBS."

CBS traditionally has the oldest audience of the major networks.



## Hip-hop DJ's lawsuit against Queens councilman sunk

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A federal appeals court says a city councilman did not defame a fired DJ when he called him a “sick, racist pedophile” for making sex-laced rants about a rival’s young daughter.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan issued its ruling Thursday in a case DJ Star brought against Councilman John Liu.

DJ Star (real name: Troi Torain) had appealed a ruling by a lower court judge who also concluded that Liu was within his rights.

Torain was briefly charged with child endangerment and fired from WWPR-FM’s “Star & Buc Wild Morning Show” in 2006 after commenting about the wife and 4-year-old daughter of rival DJ Raashaun Casey. The child endangerment charge was later dropped by prosecutors who said they wanted to spare the girl further attention.

The hip-hop disc jockey was fired from the station known as Power 105 after he offered listeners \$500 for information about Casey’s daughter’s school and made sexually charged remarks about her. Torain also used a racial slur to describe Casey’s wife, who is part Asian.

The appeals court noted that under New York and federal law, expressions of pure opinion rather than statements of fact are protected by the Constitution.

## Ex-Phish frontman gets reduced sentence for NY drug charges

**FORT EDWARD, N.Y. (AP)**—Trey Anastasio received a reduced sentence of three years’ probation for a drug conviction after he successfully completed a counseling and treatment program.

The former Phish frontman had pleaded guilty to a felony charge for possessing painkillers without a prescription during a traffic stop in December 2006. He faced up to three years in state prison if he failed the drug program, which he began in April 2007.

The 43-year-old’s guilty plea was reduced to a misdemeanor Wednesday because he’ll graduate from the drug program next month and has completed community service. In January, he spent two days in jail for missing a scheduled drug counseling session.

The Richmond, Vt., resident lived in Saratoga Springs during treatment.

# Amy Winehouse wins Novello songwriting award

**LONDON (AP)**—Amy Winehouse has won a prestigious songwriting award for “Love Is a Losing Game” from her “Back to Black” album.

The song won the Ivor Novello award for best song musically and lyrically at a ceremony in London on Thursday. Her father, Mitch Winehouse, accepted the award after the 24-year-old singer-songwriter arrived too late to collect it in person.

Her song “Rehab,” also from the “Back to Black” album, won a Novello last year.

The awards are given out annually by Britain’s songwriting community.

In this Feb. 20, 2008, file photo, Amy Winehouse performs at the Brit Awards 2008 in London. **AP**



## Madonna's documentary on Malawi shown at Cannes

**CANNES, France (AP)**—Madonna says criticism of her adoption of a Malawian boy hurt so much, she compared it to giving birth.

“It was painful, and it was a big struggle, and I didn’t understand it,” the 49-year-old singer told reporters at the Cannes Film Festival on Thursday, where her documentary, “I Am Because We Are,” which shows poverty, AIDS and other diseases devastating Malawi’s children, was being shown.

“But in the end, I rationalized that when a woman has a child and goes through natural childbirth, she suffers an enormous amount,” she said. “So I sort of went through my own kind of birthing pains with dealing with the press on my front

doorstep accusing me of kidnapping or whatever you want to call it.”

Madonna and her husband, Guy Ritchie, have been raising David Banda, now 2, since 2006. The singer met David while she was establishing charity projects in the southern African nation.

The couple have a 7-year-old son, Rocco, and Madonna has an 11-year-old daughter, Lourdes.

Critics have said she used her celebrity status to circumvent Malawian adoption laws—allegations she denies. Regulations only stipulate that prospective parents undergo an 18- to 24-month assessment period in Malawi, a rule that was bent when Madonna was allowed to take David to London.

The adoption still must be approved, and a judge in Malawi was expected to issue his ruling next week.

Madonna said she was “happy to be the guinea pig” for Malawian adoptions.

“Hopefully, after we get through this adoption, it will be easier for people to adopt children,” she said.

Madonna was at Cannes to show her documentary, which she produced and narrated, and to attend a gala benefit dinner for the American Foundation for AIDS Research. The film was screened outside the official festival.

“I Am Because We Are” was directed by Nathan Rissman, a first-time filmmaker who has worked for Madonna as a gardener and a caregiver for her children.

“He’s a great nanny,” she said.

“It’s ‘manny,’” Rissman joked.

Rissman said Madonna “loves to give people opportunities” and that he always tried to do his best at whatever task he was assigned.

“And I noticed,” she said.



Madonna arrives for the premiere of the film “I Am Because We Are” at the 61st international Cannes film festival, on Wednesday, May 21, 2008. **AP**

## Wesley Snipes to remain free pending 3 tax convictions

**OCALA, Fla. (AP)**—Wesley Snipes will be allowed to remain free on bail as he appeals three federal tax convictions.

Judge William Terrell Hodges granted Snipes’ motion for bail Thursday pending appeal of his case, saying Snipes doesn’t pose a flight risk and is not a threat to the community.

The 45-year-old actor was sentenced last month to three years in prison on three misdemeanor counts of willful failure to file his income tax returns.

Snipes’ attorneys plan to argue before the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that the trial judge erred in several ways before and after his February conviction.

Snipes, the star of the “Blade” trilogy, “White Men Can’t Jump,” “Jungle Fever” and other films, hasn’t filed a tax return since 1998, the government alleged.

In this Feb. 24, 2008 file photo, Wesley Snipes arrives at the 80th Academy Awards in Los Angeles. **AP**



## Roommates disagree over who should clean up whose clutter

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** Please settle a dispute I am having with my roommates. The four of us “girls” have separate bedrooms, and mine is messy. I admit it is covered with clothes and papers. But there is never food, food wrappers or anything lying around that could attract “unwanted guests.”

My roommates are always after me to clean my room, but I feel I shouldn’t have to. I’m an adult. I work 20 to 30 hours a week, and my major requires that I have class for another 30 hours. On top of that I have homework, and I try to have a social life. I keep my door closed so my roommates and their guests won’t see the mess.

Now, here’s the zinger: I am the only one who keeps the rest of the house clean. I am the one who does the dishes, takes out the trash, cleans the bathroom, vacuums, etc. I have to beg my roommates to do anything, and many nights I come home to three stacks of dirty dishes and two bags of trash.

I don’t expect you to say it’s OK to have a cluttered room, but what do you think about people who barely lift a finger to help around the house telling me what to do in my room?

—THE MESSY ONE, HINESVILLE, GA.

**DEAR MESSY ONE:** Talk about a case of the pot calling the kettle black! Frankly, it seems rather selfish for your roommates to keep their private spaces neat as a pin while ignoring the need to contribute to the upkeep of the common areas.

The time has come to hold a “roomies” meeting and offer “the girls” a proposition. You will find the time to straighten your room when they agree to post and abide by a “chores chart” so you no longer have to play Cinderella.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My darling grandmother, a selfless pillar in our community, died just over three weeks ago. Her death hit me extremely hard, but I was lucky enough to see her one last time before she fell into a coma.

In my kitchen is an amaryllis plant that my husband received as a gift more than 10 years ago. It hasn’t bloomed in the last seven years, but we kept it going because the fronds are so pretty. In fact, I liked it so much I bought one for my grandmother as a Christmas gift a few years ago.

Well, after seven years of being dormant, my beautiful amaryllis began blooming on the day of Grandma’s funeral. This amazing, stately flower stands tall and reminds us of her. There is no reason why this plant should flower now. I haven’t fed it in ages, it gets watered only when I can remember to do it, and I have never “conditioned” it to bloom out of season. I think it’s Grandma telling me she loves me even though she is gone.

—JENNIFER IN LINCOLN, MONT.

**DEAR JENNIFER:** Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your grandmother. She may be sending you a message of love, reminding you that in death people of faith enjoy a new beginning, or telling you that you should not grieve for her, because wherever she is, she, too, is “blooming.”

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)



*Dear Abby*











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#### Job Vacancy Announcements

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# Pistons end Celtics' home streak, tie East finals



**BOSTON (AP)**—The Detroit Pistons proved that a visiting team can win in Boston. Now they can reach the NBA finals without having to do it again. Richard Hamilton bounced back from a poor series opener with 25 points, and the Pistons beat the Celtics 103-97 Thursday night, tying the Eastern Conference finals at one game apiece and seizing the home-court advantage that has meant everything to the Celtics.

Chauncey Billups had 19 points and seven assists for the Pistons, who host Game 3 on Saturday night. Boston had won 15 straight at home and was 9-0 in the playoffs, but the only number that matters now is 0-6—the Celtics' playoff road record.

Paul Pierce scored 26 points for the Celtics and Ray Allen broke out of a shooting slump with 25, his best performance in three months. But he was limited to about 29 1/2 minutes by foul trouble, picking up his fifth foul with 3:09 left in the third quarter after his flurry had given Boston the lead.

Kevin Garnett had 24 points and 13 rebounds for the Celtics, who lost at home for the first time since March 24 against Phoenix. No team has reached the finals without a road victory, and there's no longer a chance for Boston to be the first.

Antonio McDyess scored 15 points, Tayshaun Prince had 14, and Rasheed Wallace and Rodney Stuckey scored 13 for the Pistons, who were rusty in Game 1 but found their groove in the second quarter of this one, shooting 49 percent against the league's best defensive team.

The Pistons led 86-75 after Stuckey's jumper with 8:05 remaining, but Allen had seven points, including his first 3-pointer since Game 5 of the



Detroit Pistons forward Antonio McDyess (24) silences the crowd and runs past Boston Celtics head coach Doc Rivers, right, after making a basket in the second half during Game 2 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals in Boston, Thursday, May 22, 2008.

second round, during a 13-4 run that cut it to 90-88 with 4:39 to

play.

Later, Boston was down four

and forced Detroit to call time with the shot clock about to run

out, but then blew the defensive assignment and left Billups alone for a layup on the in-bounds and Detroit led 100-94 with 18 seconds left.

Another 3 by Allen cut it to three, but Wallace hit a free throw on the other end. The Pistons were 28-of-32 (87.5 percent) from the line.

Billups was limited to nine points in Game 1, his first action since straining his right hamstring early in Game 3 against Orlando in the second round.

He shed the tights he wore in the opener and came out aggressively, drawing a foul on the first possession and hitting two free throws. He added two free throws later in the first quarter when he appeared to create contact while attempting a 3-pointer by kicking the Celtics' Eddie House in the groin.

The Celtics missed their first six shots in the second quarter and didn't make a field goal until James Posey's 3-pointer with 7:03 left that tied it at 27. McDyess scored the next five points and the Pistons led the remainder of the half, opening a 50-43 lead at the break.

Allen was limited to 11 minutes in the first half because of foul trouble. He picked up his third with 8:41 to go and didn't play again until coming in when the Celtics had the ball in the final seconds of the half.

Boston stormed out of the half with a 15-4 surge, featuring eight points from Allen in his best stretch in a while, to open a 58-54 lead. The Pistons steadied themselves with 3-pointers by Hamilton, Wallace and Billups to regain the lead, and Allen later had to return to the bench when he picked up his fourth and fifth fouls.

Detroit went 4-of-5 from behind the arc in the quarter, with Wallace's 3 with 7.1 seconds left sending the Pistons to the final period with a 78-69 lead.

## Wagner leads Colonial after first-round 63

**FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)**—Johnson Wagner bogeyed two of three holes midway through the first round of the Crowne Plaza Invitational on Thursday. That was only a small hiccup on his way to matching his best score on the PGA Tour.

After his approach at No. 10 missed the green for a bogey, Wagner responded with three consecutive birdies, including a nifty up-and-down on the 611-yard 11th hole. He then added two more before the round was over to increase his birdie total to nine for a 7-under 63 and a two-stroke lead over No. 2-ranked Phil Mickelson and Brett Wetterich.

"It felt like (the round) was going to slip away," Wagner said.

But it didn't, not even after his wind-pushed approach at No. 11 wound up in the rough well left of the green. Wagner flopped a shot to inside 6 feet of the pin on the back of the green.

"I decided to go ahead and try for the hero shot, and pulled it off," Wagner said. "It just righted the ship."

Wetterich also birdied Nos. 11-13, including a 367-yard drive on the par 5, then parred out the rest of the way to his 65. It was the best round of a disappointing season for Wetterich, who missed two months early on because of a torn labrum in his left shoulder.

Mickelson, the 2000 champion who is at Colonial for the first time in three years, got to 5 under with a 12-foot birdie on the closing hole after missing a 7-footer at No. 17.

Five of the world's top 10 players are in the field, the most at Colonial since 2004. Mickelson was the only one to start with a subpar round, while Jim Furyk (71), Geoff Ogilvy

(72), K.J. Choi (73) and Steve Stricker (74) had their varied struggles.

Glen Day was alone in fourth after a bogey-free round of 66 on a windy day, with gusts up to 35 mph howling through Hogan's Alley.

Day hasn't had a top-three finish since 2004 and now splits time between the PGA and Nationwide tours. His 45-foot putt at the 171-yard 13th was the only of his four

birdie putts over 3 1/2 feet.

"I love this golf course. I don't hit it very far. But I can still play the course because it's firm and it runs out," Day said. "This course requires shot-making. That doesn't exist in today's game. I mean these kids tee it up and hit as hard as they can in one direction, and that's it. ... I like the old style."

While length is a premium at

so many modern-day layouts, the par-70, 7,054-yard tree-lined Colonial course is pretty much the same as it was when Ben Hogan won there five times from 1946-59.

Two-time Colonial champion Corey Pavin and Dudley Hart were among a group of eight players who shot 67. Another was Fort Worth resident Mark Brooks, who overcame a double-bogey 5 at No. 13 in his 25th start at Colonial. Brooks hasn't won since the 1996 PGA Championship.

Wagner was 4 under through seven holes, including two birdies on Colonial's "horrible horseshoe"—as Nos. 3-5 are known because of their layout and being the longest par 4s sandwiching a 252-yard par 3. He three-putted from 56 feet at the 194-yard 8th hole, then flew the green at No. 10 after misjudging the wind and missed a par-saving 4-foot putt after a

nice chip shot.

But the bogeys didn't rattle him, as maybe they would have before he won on the PGA Tour.

"I should be playing better now that I'm a winner," Wagner said. "I'm just more comfortable, more confident, having more fun, not letting bogeys bother me or doubles bother me. ... At the beginning of the year, I would have gotten real frustrated and down."

Until his victory at the Shell Houston Open, Wagner had plenty to be upset about his game. He missed six consecutive cuts after tying for 38th in his season debut at the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic. He finished 78th and 64th in the two weeks leading up to Houston.

"I was really kind of at rock bottom and kind of recommitting myself to my coach," Wagner said. "Everything kind of clicked in Houston."

## Bynum undergoes knee surgery in New York

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Center Andrew Bynum underwent arthroscopic knee surgery Wednesday in New York, and the Los Angeles Lakers said they expect him to make a full recovery by the start of training camp next fall.

The 30-minute procedure, performed by Dr. David Altchek, consisted of removing some cartilage debris and smoothing some rough spots on the underside of Bynum's left kneecap, the team said.

Bynum had the operation on the same day the Lakers opened the Western Conference finals against the San Antonio Spurs at Staples Center.

"Everything seemed to go well," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said, adding that from what he had heard, Bynum should be 100 percent in about three months. "I think Andrew's glad he did it."

Bynum hasn't played since suffering a bone bruise in his knee and a subluxation of the kneecap—a brief dislocation that popped back into place—in the third quarter of a 100-99 victory over Memphis on Jan. 13. He was having a breakout season, averaging 13.1 points, 10.2 rebounds and 2.1 blocked shots in 35 games.

"That's perfect," Lakers forward Lamar Odom said when informed of the news. "Andrew is really important to us. We'll all be waiting for him. As soon as this game is over, I'll be sure to holler at him, wish him well."

The Lakers estimated a day after the 20-year-old center was injured that he'd be sidelined eight to 12 weeks. But Jackson said April 21 that a return this season was remote, and Bynum said much the same thing shortly thereafter.

Dr. Altchek examined Bynum in New York on April 10 and declined to clear him for practice. The 7-footer was examined again May 7 in Princeton, N.J., by Dr. Steven Gecha, who said there had been some improvement in the knee, but recommended exploratory surgery if there wasn't more in the ensuing three to four weeks. The surgery was performed two weeks after that.

Despite Bynum's absence, the Lakers went 57-25 to earn the top seed in the West, and 8-2 to eliminate Denver and Utah from the playoffs to reach the conference finals for the first time since 2004.

Bynum, the 10th overall pick in the 2005 NBA draft, averaged 1.6 points and 1.7 rebounds in 46 games as a rookie, and 7.8 points, 5.9 rebounds and 1.56 blocked shots in 82 games in his second season.



# Dice-K remains unbeaten in Red Sox's, 11-8



**BOSTON**  
(AP)—J.D. Drew and Mike Lowell hit grand slams

to help Daisuke Matsuzaka remain unbeaten, and the Boston Red Sox beat the Kansas City Royals 11-8 to sweep their seven-game homestand in the American League on Thursday.

Drew and Lowell were the first Red Sox to hit slams in the same game at Fenway Park since Tony Armas and Bill Buckner on Aug. 7, 1984. The last time Boston had two slams in a game was when the switch-hitting Bill Mueller hit both—one from each side—at Texas on July 29, 2003.

Matsuzaka (8-0) gave up three runs on six hits, walked six, struck out seven and threw two wild pitches while becoming the AL's first eight-game winner.

Brian Bannister (4-6), who allowed seven runs on 12 hits, couldn't work his daytime magic against the hot Red Sox. Entering the game, he was 4-0 with a 0.62 ERA in day games.

## Rangers 8, Twins 7, 10 innings

At Minneapolis, Josh Hamilton hit a two-out homer in the 10th inning to lift Texas.

Hamilton's drive into the left-field seats against Brian Bass (1-1) gave him 12 homers, matching Chicago's Carlos Quentin for the AL lead. Hamilton went 2-for-4 and moved past Minnesota's Joe Mauer for the best average in the league, .335. He has 53 RBIs, too, by far the most in the majors.

Joaquin Benoit (3-1) loaded the bases in the eighth and surrendered a two-run single to Justin Morneau that tied the game at 7, but he settled down for a scoreless ninth and the victory.

## Tigers 9, Mariners 2

At Detroit, Brandon Inge and Matt Joyce homered, and Detroit scored 30 runs in a sweep of Seattle.

Jeremy Bonderman (3-4) won for the first time in four May starts, allowing two runs and eight hits with two walks in six innings.

Miguel Batista (3-6) gave up five runs—four earned—on seven hits in three innings.

## White Sox 3, Indians 1

At Chicago, Carlos Quentin hit a tie-breaking single in the eighth inning and Chicago won its eighth straight game.



Boston Red Sox's Daisuke Matsuzaka delivers a pitch against the Kansas City Royals in the first inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park, in Boston, Thursday, May 22, 2008.

Quentin had two RBIs and Jermaine Dye added a run-scoring single in the eighth to finish off a three-game sweep of punchless Cleveland, which scored only 13 runs during its six-game losing streak.

Indians starter Aaron Laffey (2-3) was pulled in the eighth for Masa Kobayashi, who got two outs before allowing RBI singles to Quentin and Dye.

## Blue Jays 4, Angels 3

At Toronto, Lyle Overbay hit a go-ahead solo homer, A.J. Burnett won consecutive starts for the first time this season and Toronto avoided a three-game sweep.

Overbay finished 2-for-3, adding a double and a walk.

Burnett (5-4) gave up three runs and six hits in six innings. He walked three and struck out six.

Overbay's one out drive to right made a loser of Ervin Santana (6-2),

who is 1-2 in May after going 5-0 in April. Santana lost consecutive starts for the first time in 2008.

## Yankees 2, Orioles 1

At New York, Robinson Cano singled home the winning run with two outs in the ninth inning, moments after New York manager Joe Girardi was ejected during a theatrical argument.

Hideki Matsui led off the ninth with a single off Jim Johnson (0-2) and later scored from second base, beating left fielder Jay Payton's high throw.

Girardi rushed from the dugout after plate umpire Chris Guccione ruled Jason Giambi was out on a foul tip. Girardi got his money's worth for his first ejection as Yankees manager—he twice threw down his hat and kicked it once, then kicked the dirt while finishing his rant with crew chief Tim Welke.

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## Marlins 4, Diamondbacks 0

At Miami, Andrew Miller limited the Arizona Diamondbacks to five hits in seven innings and the Florida Marlins won to complete a three-game sweep in a showdown of first-place National League teams.

The series was the most impressive yet by the Marlins. The team with MLB's lowest payroll built its improbable NL East lead with the help of a weak early schedule, but there was nothing fluky about the way they dispatched NL West leader Arizona.

Miller (4-3) had a career-high nine strikeouts, walked one and allowed only one runner to reach second base. Miller had an ERA of 9.12 on May 1, but it's down to 5.33, and he has won four of his past five decisions.

The Diamondbacks arrived in Miami with the best record in the big leagues, but they totaled only 17 hits in the three games and were outscored 10-3. The shutout was the first against them this season.

The Marlins, last in the majors in fielding, committed no errors in the series and repeatedly came through with clutch hits.

Wes Helms drove in two runs with a pinch-hit double to chase Dan Haren, and Jorge Cantu also drove in two runs. Haren (5-3) allowed eight hits and four runs in 6 1-3 innings.

## Braves 4, Mets 2

At Atlanta, Chipper Jones' single drove in the go-ahead run during a three-run seventh inning against Johan Santana, and Atlanta beat New York behind Tim Hudson to complete its first four-game sweep of the Mets in five years.

Carlos Beltran and Carlos Delgado homered on consecutive pitches from Hudson in the second inning. But Santana (5-3) couldn't hold the 2-0 lead while giving up a career-high 12 hits and four runs, three earned, in seven innings.

The left-hander had only one strikeout, a season low, while losing for the first time since April 12. The struggling Mets fell to 22-23 with their seventh loss in 10 games, a frustrating stretch that has led to speculation about manager Willie Randolph being fired.

Hudson (7-3) gave up seven hits and two runs in eight innings.

## Pirates 8, Brewers 4

At Pittsburgh, Jason Bay and Xavier

Nady homered, and Pittsburgh took advantage of Milwaukee's inability to drive in runners to avoid a series sweep.

The Brewers were denied their first three-game sweep in Pittsburgh since PNC Park opened in 2001. They are 22-43 there, the worst record of any opposing team.

The Brewers got 14 hits but left a season-high 14 on base. They were 2-for-11 with runners in scoring position.

Pirates starter Tom Gorzelanny (4-4) won despite giving up eight hits and walking four in five-plus innings, and helped himself by driving in a run with his first hit in 23 at-bats, dating to last season, with a single during a four-run fourth against starter Dave Bush (1-5).

Nate McLouth had his first four-hit game and scored twice for Pittsburgh.

## Phillies 7, Astros 5

At Houston, Brad Lidge earned a save against his former team, and Philadelphia got home runs from Ryan Howard and Pat Burrell to beat Houston.

Howard also had a RBI double and Lidge improved to 12-for-12 in save chances this season by getting Lance Berkman to pop up for the final out with a runner on.

Pedro Feliz and Carlos Ruiz also had RBIs for the Phillies, who have won three in a row.

Ty Wigginton had two RBIs for the Astros. Roy Oswalt was hit hard again, giving up five runs and 11 hits.

## Padres 8, Reds 2

At San Diego, Khalil Greene hit two solo home runs, and Adrian Gonzalez and Kevin Kousseroff each had a two-run shot to back Randy Wolf in San Diego's win over Cincinnati.

Ken Griffey Jr. hit his 598th home run in the first inning for the Reds. The two-run drive was Griffey's first in 90 at-bats, the second-longest homerless drought of his career. Griffey is attempting to become the sixth player to reach 600 homers.

Gonzalez's home run, his 13th, put San Diego ahead 3-2 in the fifth against Aaron Harang (2-6). Greene hit the first of his two homers leading off the sixth.

After giving up Griffey's homer, Wolf (3-4) did not allow a baserunner past first. He yielded two runs and four hits in seven innings. The left-hander struck out nine and walked one. He also added an RBI single.

# Ties between Dolphins, Jason Taylor all but severed



**MIAMI** (AP)—The feud between Jason Taylor and Bill Parcells intensified Wednesday, making it likely the six-time Pro Bowl defensive end has played his last game for the Miami Dolphins.

Coach Tony Sparano said Taylor isn't expected to take part in any team activities through training camp. The revelation came less than 24 hours after Taylor finished second to Kristi Yamaguchi in the finals of "Dancing With the Stars" in Los Angeles.

For weeks the new Dolphins regime, led by Parcells, has fumed while Taylor spent his offseason focused on his budding Hollywood career rather than back in South Florida working out with teammates.

Following a voluntary team prac-

tice Wednesday—with only Taylor missing—Sparano signaled the Dolphins are ready to move on without their top defender.

"I'm glad we know this. We've gotten the information, and that's important," Sparano said. "I know that Jason is not going to be in any minicamps, and I know that right now Jason is not going to be at training camp."

"So that's what we know. Jason's a player under contract with the Miami Dolphins. He knows that. Both parties are well aware of the information. That's all I'm going to say about it. ... We need to discuss the current players on our team right now that have been busting their butt for nine weeks here."

While Sparano implied that Taylor initiated the latest development in the soap opera, the coach declined to be

more specific. Taylor and his camp were mum about the situation.

In a recent interview, Taylor said he was unhappy he had talked "probably less than a minute each" with Parcells and new general manager Jeff Ireland, which he perceived as silent treatment. But the 33-year-old Taylor said he still planned to play this season.

"I want to win, period, and I would love to win in Miami," he said Saturday from Los Angeles. "There are a lot of things out here going on, and a lot of opportunities coming up, but the plan is to play. Football is still my priority. I still have a passion to play football."

Taylor was in New York on Wednesday for post-"Dancing" network TV appearances. He planned to fly back to Los Angeles for meetings Friday with executives of Universal and Warner

Bros., while the Dolphins hold a voluntary three-day minicamp this weekend.

A mandatory minicamp is scheduled June 6-8. Taylor is expected to return to South Florida by June 2, when he hosts a charity golf tournament.

Taylor was the lone Pro Bowl player for the Dolphins last season, when they went 1-15. Defensive tackle Vonnie Holliday, who is close to Taylor, said his friend's absence isn't a distraction for the other players.

"All they want to know is if and when he's coming back," Holliday said. "That's the only issues we have with JT right now."

Taylor has been plotting a Hollywood career since joining the Dolphins as a rookie in 1997, and he envisions himself in the kind of action roles that made Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson a

movie star.

Taylor was the subject of trade speculation throughout NFL draft weekend, but at the time, Ireland denied the Dolphins were eager to part with him. Jacksonville Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio said his team pursued a deal, but the Dolphins took Taylor off the trading block.

Owner Wayne Huizenga has said the team's open to trading Taylor. Last month Miami drafted two defensive ends as potential replacements—Clemson's Phillip Merling in the second round, and Hampton's Kendall Langford in the third round.

Taylor had 11 sacks last season to increase his career total to 117, third among active players, and he was chosen NFL Man of the Year.



# Purefoods wakes up in time to bring leaders down

**ANTIPOLO, Philippines**—It was a tale of two halves for Purefoods with almost everything going wrong for the team in the opening half, then things falling into place in the final half.

The Giants woke up from deep slumber and turned back the Talk n Text Pals, 84-79, to get back on the winning track in the 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference at the Ynares Center here Wednesday night.

It was a huge turnaround that saw the Giants yield the first 14 points of the contest, then trail

by as many as 17 before hitting giant strides in the second half, starting the third quarter with a 20-4 attack and closing the contest with a 14-9 run.

Purefoods, thus, moved one rung up to seventh place with a 4-5 win-loss card while relegating Talk n Text to second at 7-4.

James Yap best typified Purefoods' rise in the final half as he made 18 points after struggling for two in the first two quarters. The 2006 MVP was 0-of-7 from

the field in the first half, avoiding being shut out with two charities.

Reda Rhalimi, Kerby Raymundo and Roger Yap had significant contribution in their second-half siege, carrying the Giants to just their second win in their last six outings.

Purefoods has gone 2-1 with their seven-foot Moroccan import.

Talk n Text coach Chot Reyes was so disgusted he approached Purefoods counterpart

by Smith-Parker, Mister-Mister, and Olopai-Rabauliman.

The 33rd Annual Laguna Regatta was originally thought to have six boats and 12 crewmen but was trimmed to four boats and eight crew on race day. The other crew that were supposed to take part in the yearly race were Cecilio Rakulipi and crew and Mike Johnson and crew.

The route of the 33rd Annual

Ryan Gregorio for the customary handshake and then left his team with still a few ticks left in the contest.

**Purefoods 84** – Yap J. 20, Raymundo 18, Rhalimi 14, Yap R. 9, Salvador 6, Villanueva 6, Simon 5, Lanete 4, Yee 2, Larong 0.

**Talk N Text 79** – Cardona 22, De Ocampo 17, McGhee 15, Ritualo 10, Belano 7, Washington 2, Carey 2, Alapag 2, Peek 2, Aljamal 0, Chia 0.

**Quarterscores:** 17-24, 34-44, 64-59, 84-79. ([www.pba.com.ph](http://www.pba.com.ph))

Laguna Regatta used the standard two- to three-buoy course between Managaha and Tanapag.

Based on the island of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands, the Over The Reef Yacht Club (Hobie fleet No. 189) sponsors catamaran events (Hobie and Prindle cats) and public seminars about both traditional Carolinian sailing and modern sailing.

ing” and awarded their “certifications.”

Club president Stan Good said the swim lessons are an important step in improving the water safety awareness of people on Saipan.

one challenge, organizers also are dangling additional prizes for the straightest drive, longest drive, and closest to the pin.

Proceeds from the Inaugural Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament will go to the organization's educational efforts.

Those interested in joining the competition should make checks payable to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 233-7150 or email [coordinator@saipanchamber.com](mailto:coordinator@saipanchamber.com).

Ginobili. “I don’t know if it was our legs or if it was our heads.”

The Lakers then scrapped at their own pride until they stopped doing silly things, committing just one turnover in the final quarter while clearing out for Bryant to be the usual hero.

“It was crazy,” said Luke Walton. “Especially to do that against the Spurs, that’s impressive.”

In the final seconds of the game, there was a pile of Lakers on the floor, Odom grabbing Ginobili, and Vujacic grabbing the ball for the clinching free throws.

“Heart,” said Vujacic. “I think we have a big heart.”

In the final moments of the night, there were piles of untouched food on a table in the Spurs’ locker room, pizza and sandwiches abandoned by a team that had lost its stomach.

To a team that had taken a huge step toward finding its soul.

“Winning a championship is not easy, it doesn’t come to those who just wait for it, and tonight was an example,” said Fisher. “We went out and we won the game.”

You ask me, they won a lot more than that.

## STEARNS

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the whole field with two consecutive second-place finishes.

After a very intense series of very close races with dramatic shifts in fortune on Sunday morning, the final race started out with the teams of Mister-Mister, Olopai-Rabauliman, and

## RED CROSS

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from 9:15am to 9:45am on June 14. Enrollment is limited to 55 participants and children must

## INAUGURAL

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for each of the two categories.

Early registration fee is \$99 per player, while entries received after May 28 will be charged \$110 per player. The cost is inclusive of green fee, prizes, and the awards banquet. Banquet guests will be charged \$20 per person.

Chamber president James T.

## WHEN

From Page 28

They turned basketball's toughest veterans into twitching rookies.

They stole a victory from a team that was doing everything right, and they stole it after doing everything wrong.

In the end, after another Spur had bricked and another Laker had dived and wonderful spring chaos had once again returned to 11th and Figueroa, both locker rooms were quiet.

The Spurs, because they were trying to leave.

“We’re supposed to be smarter than this,” said Robert Horry, rushing into the hallway.

The Lakers, because they were trying not to laugh.

“I would think a loss like this might take a little bit out of their sails,” said Jordan Farmar, dressing slowly.

The last time the Lakers pulled off a playoff comeback this large, they needed Horry to win it with that infamous last-second shot against the Sacramento Kings in Game 4 of the Western Conference finals.

You know what hap-

the tandem of Ron Smith and Ted Parker in a three-way tie.

The committee called a very short race, which meant that the teams would depend almost entirely on skill to determine the victors.

In the heat of competition, many boats were only inches apart, but the end of the race saw the dramatic finish of Stearns-McCullough, followed

be at least five years old. Tsunami Saipan is reminding parents not to register their toddlers.

Cost to participate is \$25 with the succeeding participant from the same family charged \$20 each. American Red Cross cer-

Arenovski earlier invited golfpros and weekend warriors to take part in the inaugural competition.

“We are having our first Chamber Golf Tournament. It is a two-person, best-ball format, so it is for players of all skill levels. If you haven’t played in a while, this is your chance to play and have some fun. Thanks to those who have committed to hole sponsorships and raffle prizes. I hope you will encourage employees

pened next.

The last time the Spurs blew this sort of lead and lost this sort of close game under this sort of pressure was, well, almost never.

You can almost guess what will happen next.

The weary champions have a 20-point lead on the court of the young team, and hold that team to under 90 points ... and still lose?

The aging champions have a chance to throw a huge first punch on the road against a team that played with rust and dust ... and they miss?

“Obviously we were up 20, and we hoped to put that one away and put them on their heels, but we didn’t,” said Tim Duncan, shaking his head. “We have to recover.”

Recover? How do you recover from something like this?

The answer is, you probably can’t.

The Lakers may have won this series by winning a game in which their best player and league MVP made one basket on three shots—THREE—in the first half.

“Just tried to read the flow of the game,” said Kobe Bryant.

Well, um, Kobe, can you maybe read it a little closer next time? Maybe turn on a light

and friends to sign up.”

The sponsorships Arenovski was referring to are hole-in-one sponsorships, which the Inaugural Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament has four of—\$25,000 from Bank of Hawaii, \$15,000 from Takagi & Associates, \$5,000 from Century Insurance Company, Ltd., and a Yamaha R-6 Sports Bike from Joeten Motors.

Aside from Top 3 in the Low Gross and Low and the hole-in-

and read the part where it says, “Dude, you have to score for the Lakers to win!”

“I can get it off any time, and in the second half, I did that,” said Bryant, who indeed scored 14 points in the fourth quarter and gave the Lakers the lead with two free throws and a hanging jump shot.

The Lakers also may have won this series by winning a game in which their point guard Derek Fisher had zero assists and one basket, and their big man Pau Gasol had no offensive rebounds, and Sasha Vujacic was more clutch than any of them.

“There is no script to an NBA basketball game,” said Fisher. “You just go out and play as hard as you can.”

Lamar Odom put it another way.

“We scrapped,” he said. “We just scrapped.”

The Lakers scrapped at the Spurs until they missed 18 of 21 shots in the fourth quarter.

Fisher stopped being beaten by Tony Parker. Gasol stopped being dominated by Duncan. Bryant’s arms and legs stopped everyone else.

“We just kind of stopped,” acknowledged the Spurs’ Manu



### TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS					Rod Pampling	35-34	69
					Scott Verplank	34-35	69
					James Driscoll	37-32	69
					Nick Flanagan	37-32	69
					Lucas Glover	34-36	70
					Robert Garrigus	36-34	70
					Brandt Jobe	36-34	70
					Kevin Na	35-35	70
					Ken Duke	35-35	70
					Justin Leonard	35-35	70
					Arron Oberholser	35-35	70
					Kenny Perry	37-33	70
					Brett Quigley	34-36	70
					Patrick Sheehan	35-35	70
					Nick O'Hern	35-35	70
					Jason Gore	35-35	70
					Ryan Palmer	37-33	70
					Cliff Kresge	35-35	70
					Greg Kraft	37-33	70
					Mark Wilson	37-33	70
					Brian Bateman	36-34	70
					Matt Kuchar	35-35	70
					John Merrick	35-35	70
					Parker McLachlin	34-36	70
					Bill Haas	36-35	71
					Kevin Stadler	38-33	71
					Todd Hamilton	35-36	71
					Jim Furyk	36-35	71
					D.J. Trahan	38-33	71
					Tim Petrovic	37-34	71
					Fredrik Jacobson	38-33	71
					Jesper Parnevik	35-36	71
					Ryan Moore	36-35	71
					Charlie Wi	35-36	71
					Rory Sabbatini	36-35	71
					Mike Weir	35-36	71
					Tommy Armour III	36-35	71
					Jeff Quinney	36-35	71
					Billy Mayfair	35-36	71
					Nathan Green	36-35	71
					Nicholas Thompson	34-37	71
					Colt Knost	34-37	71
					Jon Mills	36-36	72
					Joe Ogilvie	35-37	72
					Bo Van Pelt	35-37	72
					Sean O'Hair	35-37	72
					J.J. Henry	36-36	72
					Chris DiMarco	37-35	72
					John Senden	37-35	72
					Carl Pettersson	37-35	72
					Dean Wilson	38-34	72
					Matt Jones	35-37	72
					Y.E. Yang	35-37	72
					David Frost	34-38	72
					Chris Kirk	34-38	72
					Marco Dawson	35-37	72
					Charley Hoffman	35-37	72
					Steve Flesch	38-34	72
					Geoff Ogilvy	36-36	72
					Bart Bryant	34-38	72
					David Toms	39-33	72
					Pat Perez	37-35	72
					Fulton Allem	38-34	72
					Michael Letzig	36-36	72
					Rocco Mediate	36-37	73
					K.J. Choi	36-37	73
					Tim Herron	36-37	73
					Mark Hensby	38-35	73
					Frank Lickliter II	37-36	73
					Steve Elkington	34-39	73
					Doug LaBelle II	36-37	73
					Dustin Johnson	36-37	73
					Ted Purdy	39-34	73
					Jason Bohn	35-38	73
					Rich Beem	36-37	73
					Tom Lehman	37-36	73
					John Rollins	37-36	73
					Daniel Chopra	35-38	73
					John Mallinger	38-35	73
					Chez Reavie	38-35	73
					Olin Browne	35-39	74
					Steve Stricker	34-40	74
					Joe Durant	37-37	74
					Heath Slocum	39-35	74
					Robert Gamez	38-36	74
					Hunter Mahan	35-40	75
					Roland Thatcher	38-38	76
					Keith Clearwater	39-37	76
					Billy Andrade	37-39	76
					Chad Campbell	38-38	76
					Jamie Lovemark	38-38	76
					Tom Pernice, Jr.	40-37	77
					Jason Day	36-41	77
					Harrison Frazar	39-40	79
					Lee Janzen	39-41	80





## Purefoods wakes up in time to bring leaders down

It was a tale of two halves for Purefoods with almost everything going wrong for the team in the opening half, then things falling into place in the final half.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Pistons end Celtics' home streak, tie East finals

The Detroit Pistons proved that a visiting team can win in Boston. Now they can reach the NBA finals without having to do it again.

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28 SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Stearns, McCullough keep brass bat



The four-team field plus the support boat of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Laguna Regatta.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

**T**ony Stearns and Janet McCullough will get to keep the brass bat for yet another year after topping the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Laguna Regatta held over the weekend in the waters of the Saipan Lagoon.

Organized by the Over the Reef Yacht Club, this year's

Laguna Regatta sailed off last Saturday with very light winds which turned the whole field on its head.



Lino Ol-  
opai and  
Amada Ra-  
bauliman fin-  
ished first and  
second in two  
of the races and seemed poised  
to really challenge the reigning  
champions, Stearns and Mc-

Cullough.

Tyce and Angie Mister, long-time regatta competitors returned to the field for the first time in many years, but struggled with equipment problems on Saturday.

After fixing their boat on Sunday, however, the husband-and-wife pair made up for lost time and using the surprise strong winds from the east, challenged

See STEARNS on Page 27

## Red Cross lessons resumes on June 14

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will once again offer American Red Cross swimming lessons beginning next month at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan south pool.

According to the year-old

swim club, the lessons will be held beginning June 14 and through the succeeding Satur-



days of the month plus the first Saturday of the next month, July 5, at the Garapan landmark.

All lessons will be from 10am to 11am.

According to the club's head coach, Hiro Kimura, swimmers and coaches of Tsunami Saipan will conduct the American Red Cross swim lessons.

Registration will be held at the Fiesta Resort south pool area

See RED CROSS on Page 27



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The coaches who conducted last month's Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's American Red Cross swimming lessons. Back row, from left, Michael Villagomez, Tamiko Winkfield, Stan Good, Bobby Winkfield, Valrick Welch, and Daniel Villegas. Middle row, from left, Keana Villagomez, Amanda Johnson, Shin Kimura, Quincy Johnson, Mina Minami, and James Sakamoto. Front row, from left, Kensuki Kimura, Ashley Welch, and Marystar Welch.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tony Stearns and Janet McCullough in action during the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Laguna Regatta held over the weekend in the waters of the Saipan Lagoon.

## Inaugural Chamber Golf Tournament on May 31

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The Inaugural Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament will tee off exactly a week from now on May 31 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

The competition will use a two-person, best-ball format and show time is at 6:30am with shotgun start at 7:30am.

Up for grabs are championships in the Low Gross and Low Net (Double Peoria) categories. Winners in the two divisions get to take home \$500 each, while runners-up don't go empty handed with cash prizes of \$300 (second place) and \$200 (third place)

See INAUGURAL on Page 27

## When a win is more than a win

By BILL PLASCHKE

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



**L**OS ANGELES—In the end, when the unimaginable blinked on the scoreboard, when the unthinkable danced on the hardwood, the cheers even drowned out Randy Newman.

All but three words.

"We love it!" the too-cool Staples Center fans giddily chanted with their victory song. "We love it! We love it! We love it!"

Oh, will the Los Angeles Lakers forever love this one.

Man, will the San Antonio Spurs forever loathe it.

It was just one game, just Game 1, just a beginning.

It felt like seven games, Game 7, an ending.

The Lakers didn't just come back from a 20-point deficit to steal an 89-85 victory over the San Antonio Spurs in the Western Conference finals opener Wednesday night.

They turned basketball's smartest crunch-time team into dummies.

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